

An Overview of the Bible

The Word of God



Introduction

Have you ever flown over the country at an altitude of 35,000 feet on a clear day and noticed what the ground looks like at that height? You can see the general outline of the land, larger rivers and larger roads, but not much detail about anything specific.

On the other end of things, if we carefully study a leaf or a particular rock we can learn a great deal about it. But, if we don't account for the surrounding environment, we might miss out altogether on the real significance of what we are seeing.

Both of those perspectives are important, but the context makes all the difference. It helps us truly understand what it is that we are seeing.

Our bible study can be similar. We might read quickly through large parts of the Bible or learn about dates and overall bits of information like the number of books, or their names. This is important information for us to know, but it might be hard for me to see any relevance to my life.

Or we might dig deeply into a particular verse or word definition and learn a lot about the grammar used, for example. That can be really important in understanding the word, but if we are not careful, we might miss out on the significance of the context and what the writer was really saying. And that significance might help me to understand the relevance it has for me and my life.

In this class I want to take a perspective somewhere between the close up and the 35,000 foot levels. I think of it as a 1,000 foot perspective. We can see neighborhoods and how the roads and communities are related to one another.

This will be a challenge because we have a lot of ground to cover in this quarter. I would like to look at each book of the Bible, with some basic information about it and its contents. But also, I want to talk about message of the book and how it connects to the rest of the Bible. Remember, while the Bible has many books and many writers, there is one Author behind its creation. I'm really looking forward to this time together.

Vince Rasbury

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Lesson 1 - The Bible is Unique, Amazing and Truly Special

For many people, that claim is a little absurd. They think of the bible as nothing more than another good book we might have in our libraries alongside other philosophical writings. Do you agree with that or do you think the bible is much more? Explain.

What are some of the things that make the bible so unique and special?

The bible is not written primarily as a history book or a law book. In its pages we can find history and law, but that is not the main point.

What would you say is the purpose of the bible?

The bible makes some important and amazing claims.

What are some of its claims?

Do you believe the bible's claims? Why?

Lesson 2 - The Design of the Bible

In this lesson we will be talking about a couple of types of orders in which the books of the bible can be listed. But first, let's discuss briefly about some of the basics of the way the bible is put together.

How many books are there in the bible? How many in the Old Testament? How many in the New Testament?

Some people might answer those questions a little differently. Why might that be?

Have the number of books in the Old Testament always been counted the same? Explain.

Have you ever memorized some or all of the books? What are some methods that you have used to teach yourself or your children to remember the books or how to find them?

Is that important? Explain.

How would you describe the order in which we typically find the books in our bibles?

Overview of the Bible

The typical listing of our bibles is grouped by the type of writing and within the groups, somewhat chronological. There are often about 5 groupings in the Old and New Testaments. For each of the following groupings, list the books in it and describe the group. (*hint: look at page 7*)

Old Testament		
Grouping	Books	Description
Law		
History		
Poetry		
Major Prophets		
Minor Prophets		

New Testament		
Grouping	Books	Description
Gospels - Life of Jesus		
History - The Church		
Paul's Letters to Churches		
Paul's Letters to Individuals		
Letters by Others		

Books of the Bible in Typical Order - Grouped by Type

Books of the Bible

Old Testament – 39 Books

New Testament – 27 Books

LAW (5)		POETRY (5)		MINOR PROPHETS (12)		History Life of Jesus (4)		Paul's Letters to Churches (9)		Letters by Others (9)	
Genesis		Job		Psalms		Matthew		Romans		Hebrews	
Exodus				Proverbs		Mark		1 Corinthians		James	
Leviticus				Ecclesiastes		Luke		2 Corinthians		1 Peter	
Numbers				Amos		John		Philippians		2 Peter	
Deuteronomy				Obadiah		Ephesians		Colossians		1 John	
HISTORY (12)				Jonah		Galatians		Philemon		3 John	
Song of Solomon (Songs)				Micah		Philippians		1 Thessalonians		Jude	
Joshua				Nahum		Colossians		2 Thessalonians		Revelation	
Judges				Habakkuk		1 Thessalonians					
Ruth				Zephaniah		2 Thessalonians					
1 Samuel				Isaiah							
2 Samuel				Jeremiah							
1 Kings				Lamentations							
2 Kings				Ezra							
1 Chronicles				Nehemiah							
2 Chronicles				Ezekiel							
Esther				Malachi							
Daniel				Philemon							

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Lesson 2 - Design of the Bible (continued)

Chapter and Verse Divisions

What is the purpose of the chapter and verse divisions in the bible?

Were they put into place by the original writers?

Why is that important to keep in mind?

Chronological ordering

Another way to order the books in the bible is chronologically, according to when things happened. This is challenging since the dates of some of the events or even whole books can be a little vague. As we discussed earlier, the bible is not written primarily as a history book or a law book. In its pages we can find history and law, but that is not the main point.

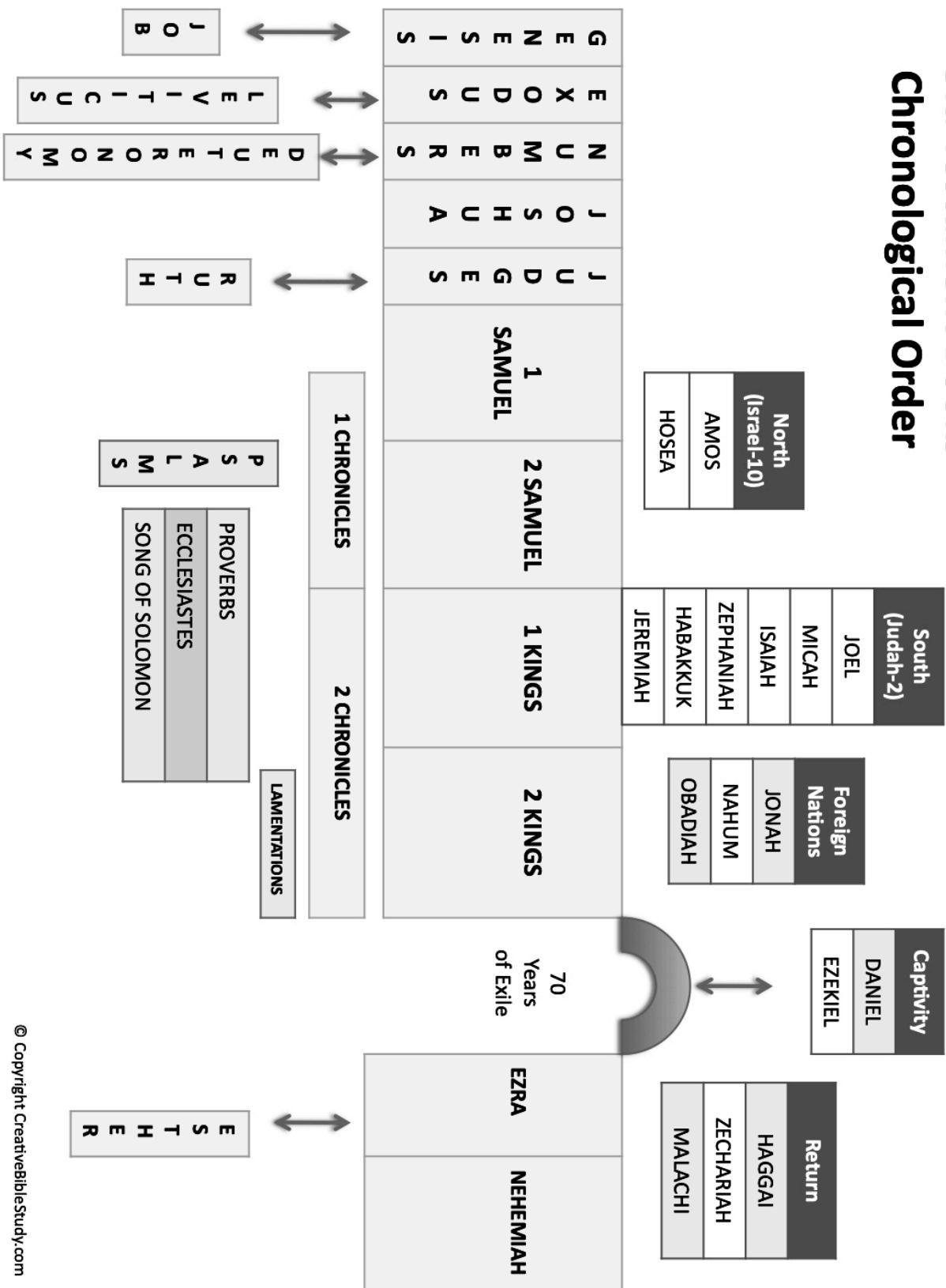
Look at pages 9 and 10 to see an example of a chronological order for the books.

This is the order in which I am planning to look at the books. The reason for this ordering is to consider how these books fit together and complement one another in telling the story that God has revealed to His creation.

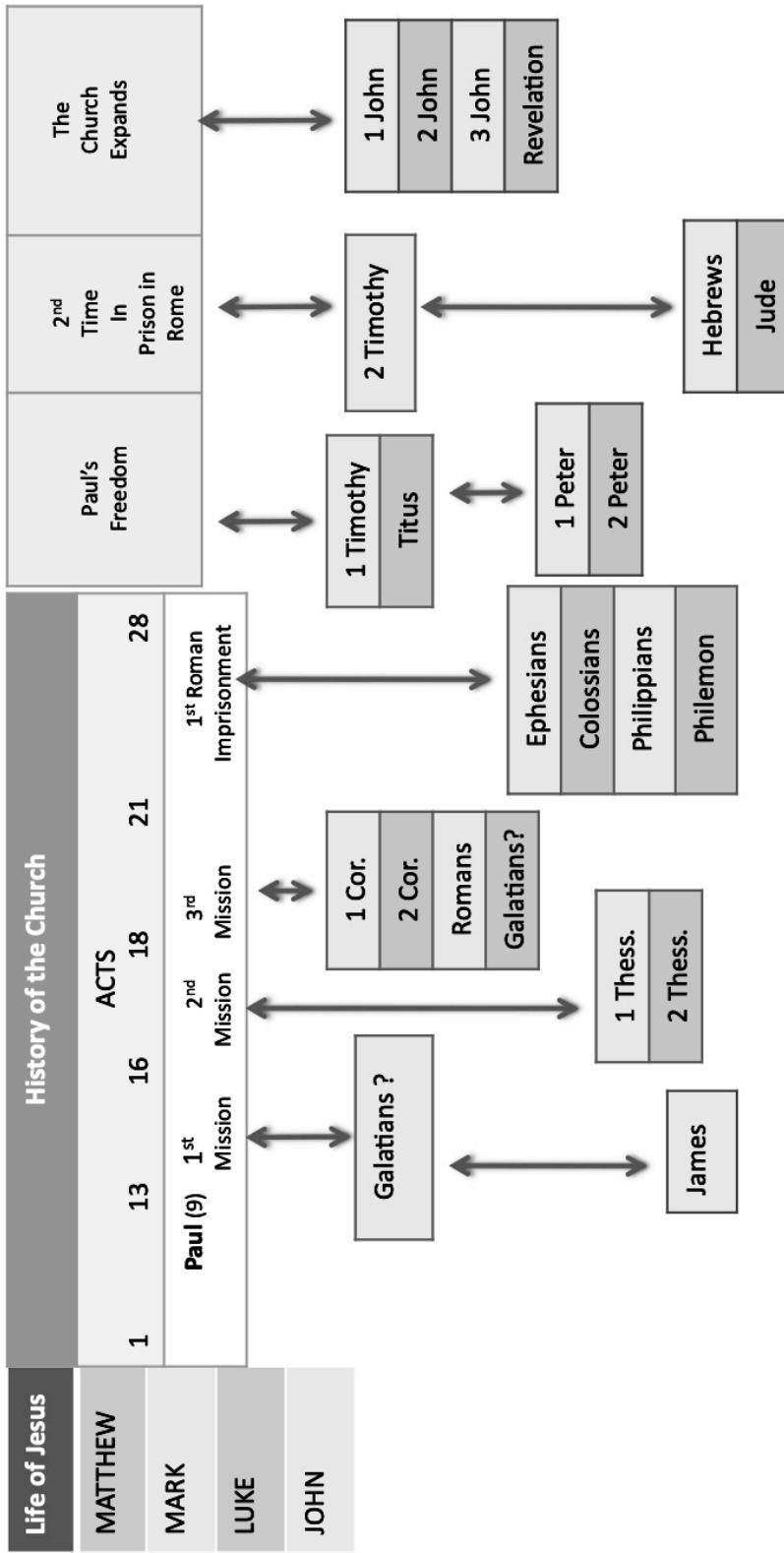
As I mentioned before, the plan is to look at some basic information about each book, seeking its message and how it connects with the rest of the bible.

Old Testament Books

Chronological Order



New Testament Books Chronological Order



Lesson 3 - Genesis / Job

What do we know about the book of Genesis?

Who wrote the book of Genesis?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



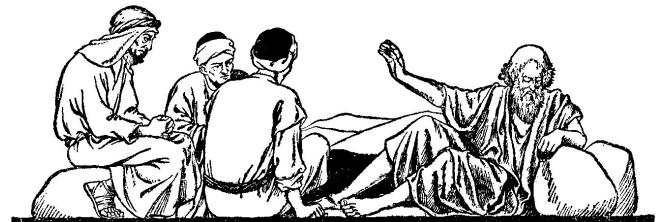
List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Genesis? Explain why.

Why is Genesis important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Job?

Who wrote the book of Job?



When was it written?

What is this book about?

List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Job? Explain why.

Why is Job important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

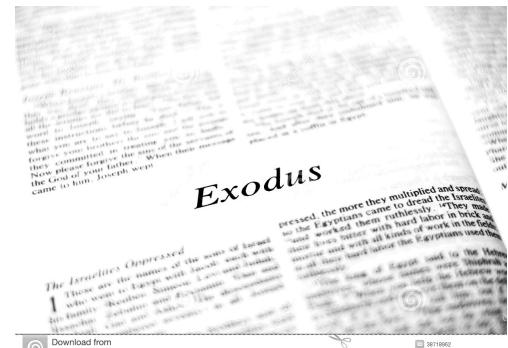
Lesson 4 - Exodus / Leviticus

What do we know about the book of Exodus?

Who wrote the book of Exodus?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Exodus? Explain why.

Why is Exodus important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Leviticus?

Who wrote the book of Leviticus?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Leviticus? Explain why.

Why is Leviticus important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

Lesson 5 - Numbers / Deuteronomy

What do we know about the book of Numbers?

Who wrote the book of Numbers?

When was it written?



What is this book about?

List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Numbers? Explain why.

Why is Numbers important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Deuteronomy?

Who wrote the book of Deuteronomy?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Deuteronomy? Explain why.

Why is Deuteronomy important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

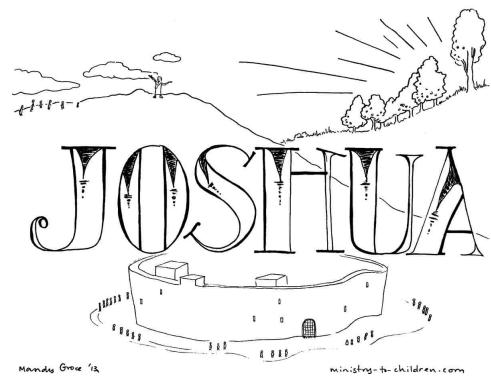
Lesson 6 - Joshua

What do we know about the book of Joshua?

Who wrote the book of Joshua?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Joshua? Explain why.

Why is Joshua important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

Lesson 7 - Judges / Ruth

What do we know about the book of Judges?

Who wrote the book of Judges?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Judges? Explain why.

Why is Judges important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Ruth?

Who wrote the book of Ruth?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Ruth? Explain why.

Why is Ruth important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

Lesson 8 - 1 Samuel / 2 Samuel

What do we know about the book of 1 Samuel?

Who wrote the book of 1 Samuel?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from 1 Samuel? Explain why.

Why is 1 Samuel important?

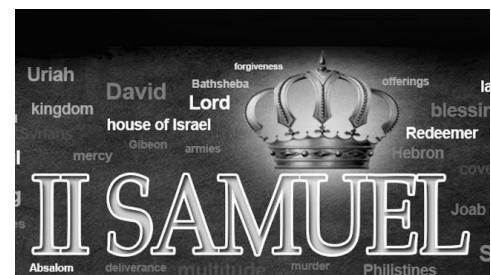
How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of 2 Samuel?

Who wrote the book of 2 Samuel?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from 2 Samuel? Explain why.

Why is 2 Samuel important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

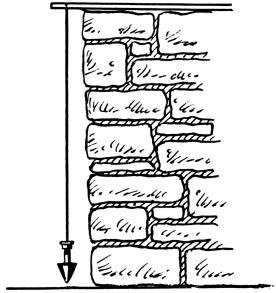
Lesson 9 - Amos / Hosea / 1 Chronicles

What do we know about the book of Amos?

Who wrote the book of Amos?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Amos? Explain why.

Why is Amos important?

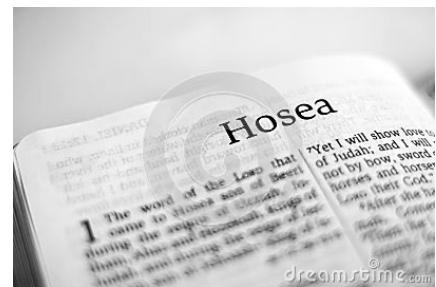
How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Hosea?

Who wrote the book of Hosea?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Hosea? Explain why.

Why is Hosea important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of 1 Chronicles?

Who wrote the book of 1 Chronicles?



When was it written?

What is this book about?

List 2 meaningful verses or passages from 1 Chronicles? Explain why.

Why is 1 Chronicles important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

Lesson 10 - Psalms

What do we know about the book of Psalms?

Who wrote the book of Psalms?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Psalms? Explain why.

Why is Psalms important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

Lesson 11 - 1 Kings / Joel / Micah

What do we know about the book of 1 Kings?

Who wrote the book of 1 Kings?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from 1 Kings? Explain why.

Why is 1 Kings important?

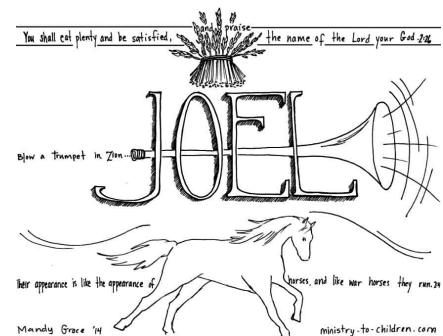
How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Joel?

Who wrote the book of Joel?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Joel? Explain why.

Why is Joel important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Micah?

Who wrote the book of Micah?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Micah? Explain why.

Why is Micah important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

Lesson 12 - Isaiah / Zephaniah / Habakkuk / Jeremiah

What do we know about the book of Isaiah?

Who wrote the book of Isaiah?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Isaiah? Explain why.

Why is Isaiah important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Zephaniah?

Who wrote the book of Zephaniah?

Zephaniah
Is there any hope?

When was it written?

What is this book about?

List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Zephaniah? Explain why.

Why is Zephaniah important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Habakkuk?

Who wrote the book of Habakkuk?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Habakkuk? Explain why.

Why is Habakkuk important?

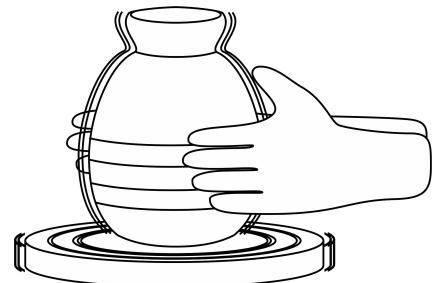
How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Jeremiah?

Who wrote the book of Jeremiah?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Jeremiah? Explain why.

Why is Jeremiah important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

Lesson 13 - Proverbs / Ecclesiastes / Song of Solomon

What do we know about the book of Proverbs?

Who wrote the book of Proverbs?



When was it written?

What is this book about?

List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Proverbs? Explain why.

Why is Proverbs important?

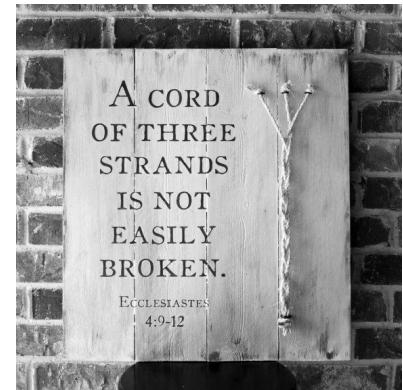
How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Ecclesiastes?

Who wrote the book of Ecclesiastes?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Ecclesiastes? Explain why.

Why is Ecclesiastes important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Song of Solomon?

Who wrote the book of Song of Solomon?



When was it written?

What is this book about?

List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Song of Solomon? Explain why.

Why is Song of Solomon important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

Lesson 14 - 2 Kings / 2 Chronicles

What do we know about the book of 2 Kings?

Who wrote the book of 2 Kings?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from 2 Kings? Explain why.

Why is 2 Kings important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of 2 Chronicles?

Who wrote the book of 2 Chronicles?



When was it written?

What is this book about?

List 2 meaningful verses or passages from 2 Chronicles? Explain why.

Why is 2 Chronicles important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

Lesson 15 - Lamentations / Jonah / Nahum / Obadiah

What do we know about the book of Lamentations?

Who wrote the book of Lamentations?

When was it written?

What is this book about?

List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Lamentations? Explain why.

Why is Lamentations important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

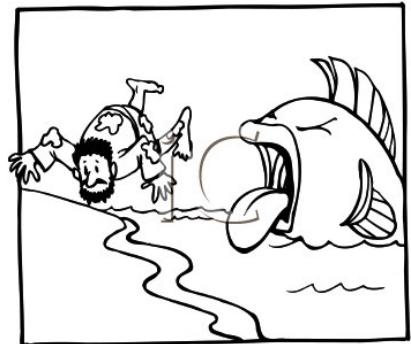
*His mercies are
new every morning;
Great is Thy
faithfulness*
-Lamentations 3:23

What do we know about the book of Jonah?

Who wrote the book of Jonah?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Jonah? Explain why.

Why is Jonah important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Nahum?

Who wrote the book of Nahum?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Nahum? Explain why.

Why is Nahum important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Obadiah?

Who wrote the book of Obadiah?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Obadiah? Explain why.

Why is Obadiah important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

Lesson 16 - Daniel / Ezekiel

What do we know about the book of Daniel?

Who wrote the book of Daniel?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



Daniel prayed to God three times a day after he had been told not to worship God.

List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Daniel? Explain why.

Why is Daniel important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Ezekiel?

Who wrote the book of Ezekiel?



When was it written?

What is this book about?

List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Ezekiel? Explain why.

Why is Ezekiel important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

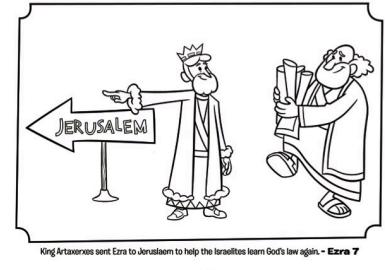
Lesson 17 - Ezra / Nehemiah / Esther

What do we know about the book of Ezra?

Who wrote the book of Ezra?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



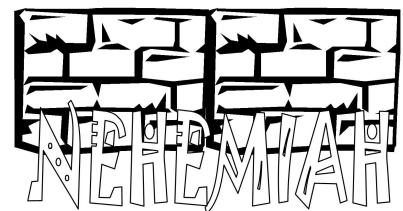
List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Ezra? Explain why.

Why is Ezra important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Nehemiah?

Who wrote the book of Nehemiah?



When was it written?

What is this book about?

List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Nehemiah? Explain why.

Why is Nehemiah important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Esther?

Who wrote the book of Esther?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



Queen Esther was willing to give her own life to save the lives of many others.

List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Esther? Explain why.

Why is Esther important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

Lesson 18 - Haggai / Zechariah / Malachi

What do we know about the book of Haggai?

Who wrote the book of Haggai?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Haggai? Explain why.

Why is Haggai important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Zechariah?

Who wrote the book of Zechariah?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Zechariah? Explain why.

Why is Zechariah important?

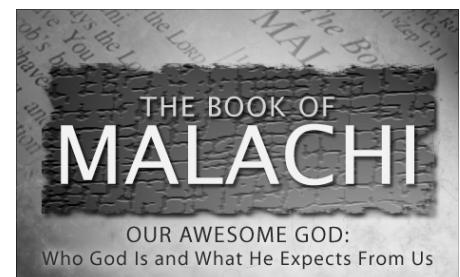
How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Malachi?

Who wrote the book of Malachi?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Malachi? Explain why.

Why is Malachi important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

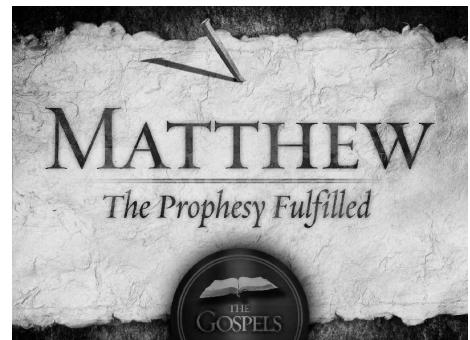
Lesson 19 - Matthew / Mark / Luke / John

What do we know about the book of Matthew?

Who wrote the book of Matthew?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Matthew? Explain why.

Why is Matthew important?

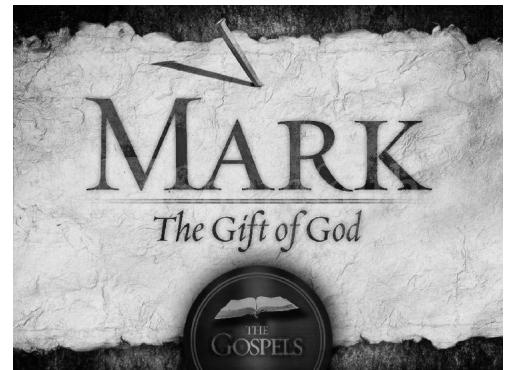
How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Mark?

Who wrote the book of Mark?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Mark? Explain why.

Why is Mark important?

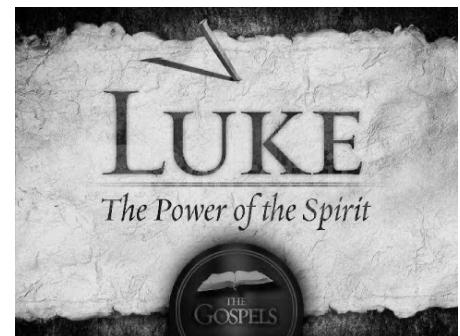
How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Luke?

Who wrote the book of Luke?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Luke? Explain why.

Why is Luke important?

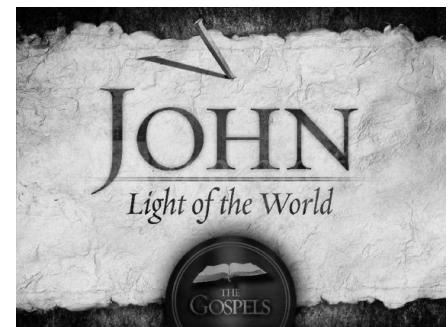
How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of John?

Who wrote the book of John?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from John? Explain why.

Why is John important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

Lesson 20 - Acts / Galatians / James

What do we know about the book of Acts?

Who wrote the book of Acts?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Acts? Explain why.

Why is Acts important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Galatians?

Who wrote the book of Galatians?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



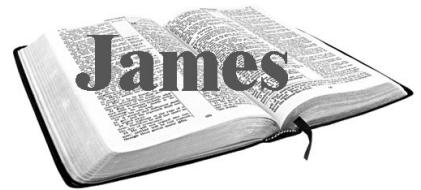
List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Galatians? Explain why.

Why is Galatians important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of James?

Who wrote the book of James?



When was it written?

What is this book about?

List 2 meaningful verses or passages from James? Explain why.

Why is James important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

Lesson 21 - 1 Thessalonians / 2 Thessalonians

What do we know about the book of 1 Thessalonians?

Who wrote the book of 1 Thessalonians?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from 1 Thessalonians? Explain why.

Why is 1 Thessalonians important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of 2 Thessalonians?

Who wrote the book of 2 Thessalonians?

When was it written?

What is this book about?

But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you, and guard you from the evil one.
2 Thessalonians 3:3

List 2 meaningful verses or passages from 2 Thessalonians? Explain why.

Why is 2 Thessalonians important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

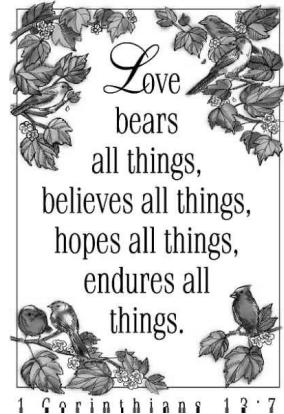
Lesson 22 - 1 Corinthians / 2 Corinthians

What do we know about the book of 1 Corinthians?

Who wrote the book of 1 Corinthians?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from 1 Corinthians? Explain why.

Why is 1 Corinthians important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of 2 Corinthians?

Who wrote the book of 2 Corinthians?



When was it written?

What is this book about?

List 2 meaningful verses or passages from 2 Corinthians? Explain why.

Why is 2 Corinthians important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Romans?

Who wrote the book of Romans?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Romans? Explain why.

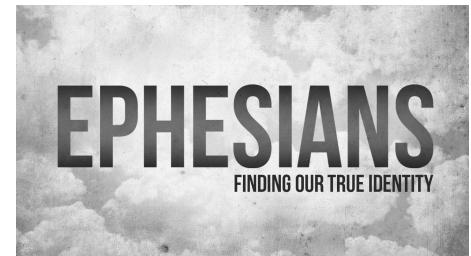
Why is Romans important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

Lesson 23 - Ephesians / Colossians / Philippians / Philemon

What do we know about the book of Ephesians?

Who wrote the book of Ephesians?



When was it written?

What is this book about?

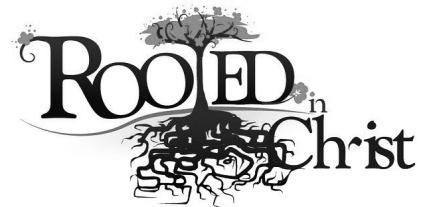
List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Ephesians? Explain why.

Why is Ephesians important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Colossians?

Who wrote the book of Colossians?



When was it written?

What is this book about?

List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Colossians? Explain why.

Why is Colossians important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Philippians?

Who wrote the book of Philippians?



When was it written?

What is this book about?

List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Philippians? Explain why.

Why is Philippians important?

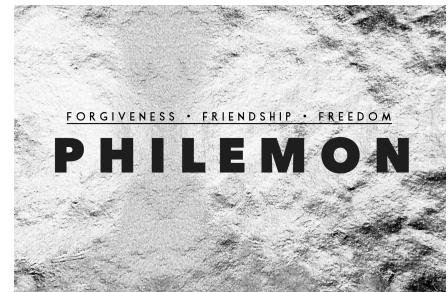
How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Philemon?

Who wrote the book of Philemon?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Philemon? Explain why.

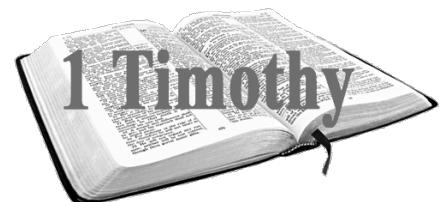
Why is Philemon important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

Lesson 24 - 1 Timothy / Titus / 1 Peter / 2 Peter

What do we know about the book of 1 Timothy?

Who wrote the book of 1 Timothy?



When was it written?

What is this book about?

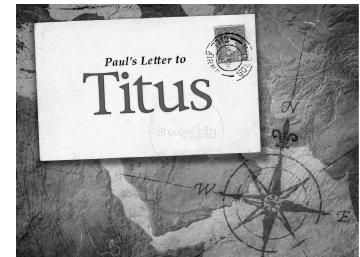
List 2 meaningful verses or passages from 1 Timothy? Explain why.

Why is 1 Timothy important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Titus?

Who wrote the book of Titus?



When was it written?

What is this book about?

List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Titus? Explain why.

Why is Titus important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of 1 Peter?

Who wrote the book of 1 Peter?

When was it written?

What is this book about?

*Above all
else love
each other
deeply*
- 1 Peter 4:8

List 2 meaningful verses or passages from 1 Peter? Explain why.

Why is 1 Peter important?

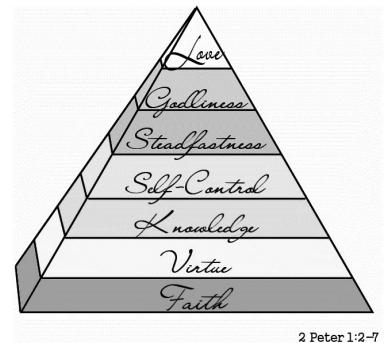
How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of 2 Peter?

Who wrote the book of 2 Peter?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from 2 Peter? Explain why.

Why is 2 Peter important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

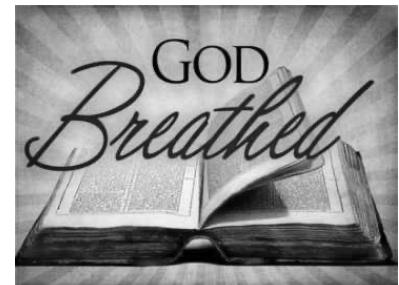
Lesson 25 - 2 Timothy / Hebrews / Jude

What do we know about the book of 2 Timothy?

Who wrote the book of 2 Timothy?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from 2 Timothy? Explain why.

Why is 2 Timothy important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Hebrews?

Who wrote the book of Hebrews?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Hebrews? Explain why.

Why is Hebrews important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Jude?

Who wrote the book of Jude?



When was it written?

What is this book about?

List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Jude? Explain why.

Why is Jude important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

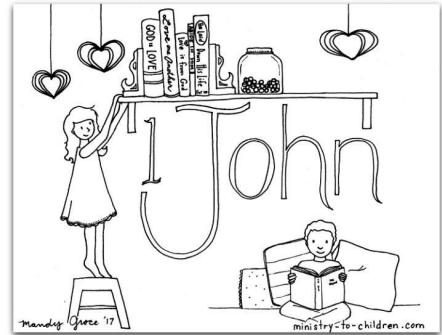
Lesson 26 - 1 John / 2 John / 3 John / Revelation

What do we know about the book of 1 John?

Who wrote the book of 1 John?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from 1 John? Explain why.

Why is 1 John important?

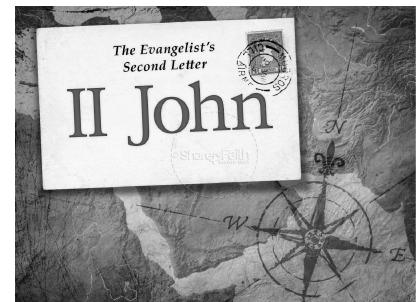
How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of 2 John?

Who wrote the book of 2 John?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



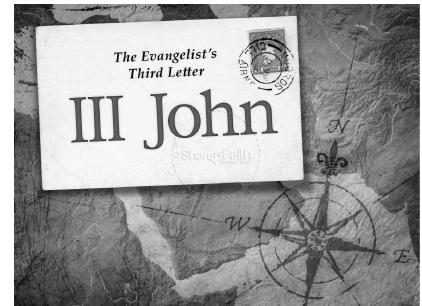
List 2 meaningful verses or passages from 2 John? Explain why.

Why is 2 John important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of 3 John?

Who wrote the book of 3 John?



When was it written?

What is this book about?

List 2 meaningful verses or passages from 3 John? Explain why.

Why is 3 John important?

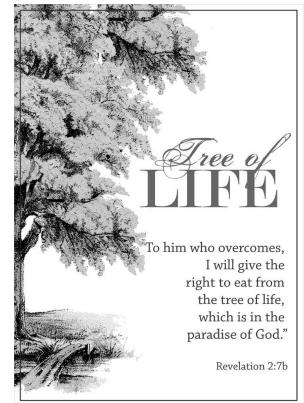
How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?

What do we know about the book of Revelation?

Who wrote the book of Revelation?

When was it written?

What is this book about?



List 2 meaningful verses or passages from Revelation? Explain why.

Why is Revelation important?

How does this book fit into the bible? Is it referenced elsewhere?