

# GOD'S WORD

## History

### Old Testament

#### **Joshua**

*"Conquest of the Promised Land"*

God guided His people under the leadership of Joshua as they fought for and won the land God had promised to Abraham.

#### **Judges**

*"Sin, Oppression, Repentance, and Deliverance"*

For three hundred years (from Joshua's death until Samuel), Israel failed to consistently show the glory of God to the heathen nations.

#### **Ruth**

*"The Romance of Redemption"*

God worked through the personal and family history of Ruth, an ancestor of Jesus Christ.

#### **1 and 2 Samuel**

*"The Kingdom Established"*

Samuel guided Israel wisely. He tells about the reigns of two kings: Saul and David. God promised that one of David's descendants would have an everlasting kingdom.

#### **1 and 2 Kings**

*"The Kingdom Divided"*

After Solomon, the country split into two kingdoms (Israel and Judah). Until the time of the Babylonian captivity, they were led by kings. Some turned them toward God; others turned them away from God.

#### **1 and 2 Chronicles**

*"God's Promise"*

God was faithful in fulfilling His promise to Abraham and David. He offered mercy to those who looked for Him with all their hearts.

#### **Ezra**

*"Return from Captivity"*

Ezra led a group of God's people back from Babylon and, along with Nehemiah, encouraged them to rebuild the temple and rededicate themselves to God. Ezra also led a reform.

#### **Nehemiah**

*"Jerusalem Rebuilt"*

God used Nehemiah to plan the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem and to lead His people in finishing this huge task.

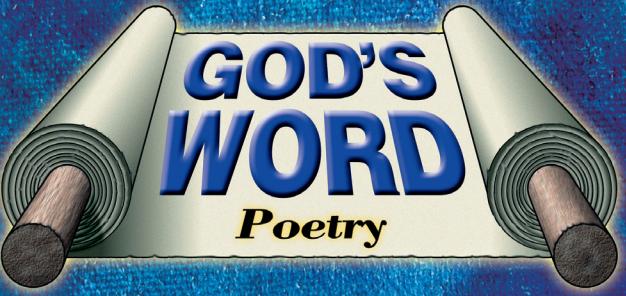
#### **Esther**

*"The Providence of God"*

God arranged events to place Esther as a queen. Then God used her to save His people from destruction in the land of their captivity.

# GOD'S WORD

## Poetry









**Job**  
*"A Good Man Suffers"*

Job is believed by many to be the oldest book in the Bible. It is not known who wrote this book. It is the story of a good man named Job and the great trouble that overtook him. Job did not become angry with God and at last was able to see beyond his suffering to God's greatness and goodness.

**Proverbs**  
*"Wisdom for Living"*

Proverbs contains short, wise sayings and longer poems that teach lessons on how to live. Except for chapter 30, written by Agur, and chapter 31, written by King Lemuel, Proverbs is the work of King Solomon, the son of David.

**Ecclesiastes**  
*"Satisfaction in God"*

This book teaches that God has given humans many gifts. But if they value His gifts more than Him, they will be unsatisfied. Many believe that Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes.

**Song of Solomon**  
*"Songs for a Spouse"*

This book describes the love of a husband and a wife. The love of married couples is important to God because it should represent the love that Christ has for His people.

**Psalms**  
*"Israel's Song Book"*

The ancient Hebrews called this collection *Tehillim* meaning "songs [hymns] of praise." The title *Psalms* is from a Greek word meaning "songs to go with music played on stringed instruments." Many of the 150 psalms were written by King David. Unknown authors wrote most of the others.

# GOD'S WORD

## Major Prophets

**Isaiah**  
*"The Messianic Prophet"*

Isaiah was sent to turn Judah back to the Lord. He predicted the fall of the nation and the return of a small number of godly people. He wrote about the birth, power, suffering, rejection, death, and judgment of Jesus Christ.

These books are called the Major Prophets because of their length and position among Bible books, not because the writers were more important than other prophets.

**Jeremiah**  
*"The Weeping Prophet"*

Jeremiah was sent to the people of Jerusalem to tell them to turn from sin to avoid punishment. When they would not listen, he cried over their stubbornness.

**Lamentations**  
*"Sorrow for God's People"*

To lament means "to weep or to mourn." Lamentations was written by Jeremiah. He wrote the sad story of Jerusalem's downfall, but he also gave hope of God's mercy in the future.

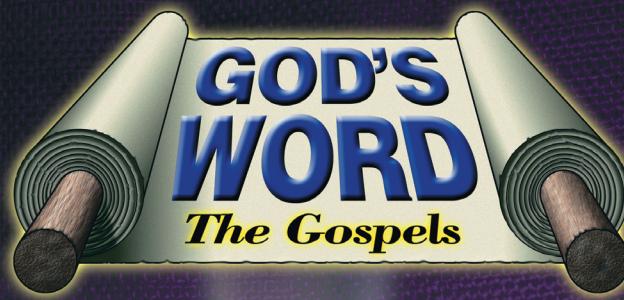
**Ezekiel**  
*"The Watchman Prophet"*

Ezekiel was taken prisoner when the Babylonians took Judah. God used him to comfort and encourage the other prisoners. He warned of more punishment if the people continued to do wrong.

**Daniel**  
*"The Consistent Prophet"*

Even though Daniel and his friends were captives of the king of Babylon, they obeyed God rather than the king because God is King over all kings. God revealed Himself as the one who controls the rise and fall of all kingdoms.





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## The Gospels

The word **gospel** comes from **godspel**, an Anglo-Saxon word meaning "good message" or "good news."

### Matthew

tells about *Christ the Promised King*.

It has many references to the Old Testament because it was written for Jewish readers.

### Mark

shows *Christ the Suffering King*.

It was written in Rome by John Mark, who traveled with Paul and later assisted Peter.

### Luke

relates the story of  
*Christ the Perfect Man*.

It was written by Luke, who was a medical doctor and coworker of Paul.

### John

reveals  
*Christ the Son of God*.

It was written by John the Apostle before he was exiled to Patmos.

The Gospels have been called "Four Portraits of Jesus."

**GOD'S WORD**  
**History**

New Testament

**Acts**  
tells the history of the early church:  
the work of the Holy Spirit in and  
through the apostles and other  
believers as they spread the good  
news of Jesus Christ.

The author was Luke, the "beloved  
physician," who also wrote the  
Gospel of Luke.

**to Jerusalem,**

**Judea,**

**Samaria,**

**and throughout the earth**

An **apostle** (as defined by Peter in Acts 1:21–22) was one who accompanied the Lord Jesus Christ during His earthly ministry from the time of His baptism until His ascension. Since the apostles had been with Jesus, they were especially able to give testimony to the facts of His life, death, resurrection, and ascension. Matthias was chosen to replace Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:23–26).



**GOD'S WORD**  
**General Letters**

**Hebrews**  
“Christianity Exalted Above Judaism”

The writer taught that salvation in Christ goes beyond Judaism because Christ Himself is the fulfillment of the Old Testament sacrificial system.

**James**  
“Active Faith”

James encouraged believers to live by faith in Christ, making it evident in all areas of living.

**1 Peter**  
“Suffering and Glory”

Peter taught that believers will suffer persecution before they enter into glory with Christ, who suffered most of all.

**2 Peter**  
“Knowing and Growing”

Peter wrote a second letter to remind believers to know God's Word and to grow as a result of knowing it.

**1 John**  
“Fellowship”

God is perfect and cannot fellowship with sin. A believer who sins loses fellowship with God. John encourages believers to stay in fellowship with God by keeping sin out of their lives.

**2 John**  
“Truth and Love”

Truth and love need to be kept in balance. John wrote to remind believers that truth without love is lifeless and that love without truth excuses sin.

**3 John**  
“Helpers in Truth”

John reminded believers to practice hospitality (friendly treatment of guests). This helps to spread the Word of God to others.

**Jude**  
“Contend for the Faith”

Jude wrote out of concern about false teachers who had invaded the church. He told believers to stand for the truth and not to listen to such teachers.

**Revelation**  
“The Unveiling of Christ”

John was shown the living Christ victorious in all His power and glory.

The limitless joy and security of those who accept the redemption of Christ is contrasted with the great disasters that will happen to those who refuse to accept Him.

There are messages to seven particular churches in seven cities—Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. The people of Jesus Christ today may also benefit from these messages.