

OLD TESTAMENT SUMMARY
(39 BOOKS)

The 5 Books of the Law (Pentateuch)

Genesis-beginnings and Noah’s flood (1-11); Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel), to Joseph’s death in Egypt (12-50).

Exodus-bondage/redemption; Moses leads Israel out of Egyptian slavery, law and tablets given at Mt. Sinai.

Leviticus-given at Mt. Sinai to guide worship (moral, ceremonial, religious), priests, feasts, vows, tithes.

Numbers-statistics, instructions, legal matters, Israel’s 40 years wilderness wanderings due to disobedience.

Deuteronomy-review of the Mosaic law, worship, wilderness journeys, promises and warnings, death of Moses.

The 12 Books of History

Joshua-conquest, division of Promised Land by Joshua.

Judges-cycles in which Israel rebels, is conquered and oppressed, repents unto God, then God raises judges (military and political leaders) to deliver Israel.

Ruth- during Judges, a Moabite woman chooses to serve God and becomes the great grandmother of David.

ISamuel-Samuel, last of the judges; Saul, first king, and David’s early years; Saul’s rebellion and death.

II Samuel-David’s 40 yr. reign, height of Israel’s glory, Jerusalem becomes capital, David’s sin and repentance.

IKings-David’s death, Solomon’s reign, the kingdom divided into Judah (South) and Israel (North), through reigns of Jehoshaphat (South) and Ahab (North).

II Kings-remaining Kings (divided kingdom),fall of Israel (Assyrian invasion) and Judah (Babylonian Captivity).

IChronicles-David’s reign and preparations for building Temple (cf., ISamuel).

II Chronicles-Solomon, kings of Judah, Babylonian captivity, Temple history (cf., I, II Kings), end of captivity.

Ezra-return from Babylonian captivity with Zerubbabel and Ezra, Temple rebuilt (cf., Haggai and Zechariah).

Nehemiah-rebuilding of Jerusalem’s walls under Nehemiah, reforms of the people.

Esther-deliverance of Israel through faithfulness of Queen Esther and Mordechai during Persian Empire.

The 5 Books of Poetry

Job-time of Abraham, Job suffers and loses everything, but remains true to God; God blesses Job for faithfulness.

Psalms- songs of praise, prayers, and worship to God; 1/2 written by David, 1/4 of N. T. quotes are from Psalms.

Proverbs-God’s wisdom for problems of everyday life; written by Solomon to instruct in righteous living.

Ecclesiastes- vanity of earthly life from human perspective (under the sun) apart from God, written by Solomon.

Song of Solomon-description of the romantic love of Solomon and his Shulamite bride.

The 5 Books of the Major Prophets

Isaiah-8th cent BC, to Judah, Assyrian crisis: warns of judgment against Judah and deliverance of the faithful.

Jeremiah-7th cent BC, to Judah, Babylonian crisis: warns of coming judgment against Judah, urges surrender to Nebuchadnezzar as last effort to save Jerusalem, prophecy of return of remnant after 70 yrs captivity.

Lamentations-6th cent BC, to exiles: Jeremiah’s lament over Babylon’s destruction of Jerusalem.

Ezekiel-6th cent BC, to exiles during Babylonian captivity: destroys false hopes for early return to Jerusalem, warns of Jerusalem’s impending fall, encourages the faithful with promises of restoration.

Daniel-6th cent BC, to exiles during Babylonian captivity: Daniel’s experiences and prophecies of world kingdoms.

The 12 Books of the Minor Prophets

Hosea-8th cent BC, to Israel, Assyrian crisis: describes apostasy of Israel and coming judgment; Hosea’s adulterous wife is compared to Israel’s adultery from God.

Joel-9th cent BC, to Judah: plague and famine are shown to be a type of coming judgment in the Day of the Lord.

Amos-8th cent BC, to Israel, Assyrian crisis: during national prosperity Amos prophesies the doom of Israel and neighboring nations; future promises for the faithful.

Obadiah-6th cent BC, to Edom: doom of Edom because they helped plunder Jerusalem; shortest O.T. book.

Jonah-9th cent BC, to Nineveh: Jonah disobeys God and is swallowed by a fish, then obeys God and prophesies Nineveh’s doom; Nineveh repents and is saved by God.

Micah-8th cent BC, to Judah, Assyrian crisis: warns of coming judgment against Israel and Judah, promises restoration and foretells the birth place of Christ (5:2).

Nahum-7th cent BC, to Nineveh, Babylonian crisis: warns of coming destruction of cruel Nineveh.

Habakkuk-7th cent BC, to Judah, Babylonian crisis: sinful Judah to be punished by even more sinful Babylon, woes against Babylon, promises for the faithful.

Zephaniah-7th cent BC, to Judah, Babylonian crisis: warns of soon to come invasion of Babylonians and its effect on Judah and neighboring nations.

Haggai-6th cent BC, to returned remnant: Jews urged to resume rebuilding the Temple after 15 yr delay due to enemy resistance; victory for faithfulness.

Zechariah-6th cent BC, to returned remnant: further urging to complete the Temple, prophecies of Christ.

Malachi-5th cent BC, to returned remnant: exhorts against materialism and spiritual shallowness, and prophesies a coming Messiah; last O.T. book.

NEW TESTAMENT SUMMARY
(27 BOOKS)

The Four Gospels (life of Christ summary)

(1) Birth and Childhood (age 1-12 yrs.) with flight into Egypt, home at Nazareth, visit to Jerusalem; nothing more known of Christ’s life from 12 yrs. old to adulthood;

(2) Judean Ministry (12 mo.), public ministry begins at adulthood (age 30 yrs. by Jewish custom), baptism, temptation by Satan, 1st disciples, 1st miracle - wedding in Cana, 1st Passover;

(3) Great Galilean Ministry (18 mo.)-most of the miracles and parables, headquarters at Capernaum, choosing of the 12 apostles, Sermon on the Mount, 1st tour of Galilee, trip to Jerusalem, 2nd and 3rd tour of Galilee, becoming of John the Baptist;

(4) Ministry of Withdrawals (6 mo.)-across the Sea of Galilee and feeding of 5000 people, into Phoenicia and healing of daughter of Gentile woman, into Decapolis and feeding 4000 people, into Caesarea-Philippi with His newly established church (cf., I Corinthians 12:28);

(5) Perea Ministry (6 mo.)-leaving Galilee and sending the 70 disciples, 3 trips into Jerusalem with the meeting of Martha and Mary and the raising of Lazarus, quiet time in Ephraim, advancing toward Jerusalem and meeting with rich young ruler, into Jericho with healing of blind Bartimaeus and meeting of Zacchaeus, rest in Bethany;

(6) Jesus’ Last Week in Jerusalem, His trial, crucifixion, and resurrection;

(7) Forty Days’ Appearance after the resurrection.

The first three Gospels are called synoptic because they are parallel accounts of the life of Christ. John describes many events not mentioned in the other three Gospels.

Matthew-by the apostle Matthew, a former tax collector, emphasizes Jesus as promised King of Kings: (1-2) birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, His royal lineage through Joseph, flight into Egypt; (3-18) great Galilean ministry and ministry of withdrawals; (19-20) Perea ministry; (21-28) last days, death, resurrection and appearances of Jesus, and commissioning of the Lord’s church.

Mark-by John Mark, Peter’s helper; emphasizes Jesus as the Servant of God and His deeds of service: (1-9) great Galilean ministry, ministry of withdrawals; (10) Perea ministry; (11-16) last days, death, resurrection of Jesus.

Luke-by Luke, Paul’s physician/helper; emphasizes Je sus as per fect Man with out sin: (1-2) birth of Je sus, human lineage through Mary; (3-9) great Galilean ministry, ministry of withdrawals; (10-19) Perean ministry; (20-24) last days, death, resurrection and appearances of Je sus.

John-by the apostle John, emphasizes Jesus as the Son of God, a per son of the God head re vealed in the flesh of hu man ity; al most half of John concerns the last days of Christ before the crucifixion: (1-5) Judean ministry; (6) with drawal across the Sea of Galilee; (7-11) Perean ministry; (12-21) the last days, death, res ur rec tion and ap pear ances of Je sus.

Acts of the Holy Spirit (history)

Acts- acts of Holy Spirit dur ing 33 yrs. from Christ’s as cen sion to Paul’s 1st Roman impris on ment; written by Luke, phys i cian/helper of Paul: (1-12) em power ing of the church, ministries of Peter and others; (13-28) life of Paul and his 3 missionary journeys. Paul’s epistles written as fol lows (cf., Acts 13-28): (1) 2nd missionary journey-I,II Thessalonians from Corinth; (2) 3rd missionary journey-I Corinthians from Ephesus, II Corinthians from Macedonia, Galatians and Romans from Corinth; (3) 1st Roman captivity-Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians, and Hebrews ; (4) free dom-I Timothy in Macedonia and Titus in Ephesus; (5) 2nd Ro man cap tivity-II Timothy and death.

Epistles of Paul-14 Books

Romans-to the church at Rome, summarizes gospel and ma jor Bib li cal doc trines: (1-8) doc trinal sum mary em phasizing just i fi ca tion by faith; (9-11) prom ises to Is rael, God’s cho sen peo ple; (12-16) prac ti cal ap pli ca tions.

I Corinthians-to correct errors in the church at Cor inth: (1-4) im proper di vi sions, (5) church dis ci pline, (6) civil law and pu rity, (7) mar riage, (8-11) Chris tian lib erty, (12-14) spiri tual gifts, (15) the resurrec tion, (16) help for needy saints and en cour age ments for all.

II Corinthians-to the church at Cor inth: (1-7) the true gospel min is try and prin ci ples for ac tion, (8-9) giv ing to help others in need, (10-13) Paul’s apos tolic au thority.

Galatians-to churches of Galatia; empha sizes sal va tion by God’s grace rather than by man’s obe di ence to the law, opposes Judaizers similar to Seventh Day Adventists: (1-2) Paul’s apos tolic au thority, (3-4) just i fi ca tion by faith, (5-6) in struc tions for practical living.

Ephesians-to the church at Ephesus emphasizing need to serve Christ through union with one of the Lord’s churches: (1-3) God’s sov ereignty and be liever’s se curity in Christ; (4-5) be liever’s faith ful ness and ser vice in the body of Christ, His church; (6) Chris tian fam ily and be liever’s war fare.

Philippians-to the faith ful Philippi church: (1) joy tri umphing over suffering, (2) joy in sacrificial service to Christ, (3) joy of faith in Christ, (4) joy in the peace of God.

Colossians-to the church at Colosse stressing deity and hu man ity of Christ, and opposing Gnosticism (false mys ti cism): (1) ex al ta tion of Christ, (2) warn ing against er ror, (3) new life in Christ, (4) fel low ship in Christ.

I Thessalonians-to the church at Thessalonica con cern ing: (1-3) ac tiv i ties in the church, (4-5) the Chris tian life in view of the im mi nent re turn of Christ.

II Thessalonians-to the church at Thessalonica, in struc tions con cern ing: (1) per se cu tions, (2) the com ing of Christ, (3) en cour age ments to serve un til Christ returns.

ITimothy-1st of 3 Pastoral Epistles, to Tim o thy, pas tor of church at Ephesus: (1) warns against false teach ers, (2-6) in structs in doc trine and church gov ernment.

IITimothy-2nd of the 3 Pastoral Epistles, to Tim o thy, pastor of church at Ephesus: (1) describes the true min is ter of Christ, (2) en cour ages to be a good sol di er of Jesus Christ, (3-4) warns of apos tasy in last days and en cour ages use of God’s Word to correct all er ror. Titus-3rd of the 3 Pastoral Epistles, to Ti tus, pas tor of church at Crete, em pha sizes: (1) qual i fi ca tions of el ders, warnings against false teachers; (2-3) in struc tions for church mem bers, sound doc trine as guide for godly life.

Philemon-to Philemon, wealthy Chris tian at Colosse; Paul intercedes for Onesimus, a run away slave who be came a Chris tian and helped Paul; en cour ages lead ers and ser vants to treat each other with love.

Hebrews-probably written by Paul to answer ques tions of Jew ish Chris tians and all who study the O.T.: (1-4) glory of Christ better than O.T. types and ex am ples, (5-10) glory of the priesthood of Christ as the Son of God, (11-13) the worship and walk of the faithful.

General Epis tles-7 Books

James-probably written by the half-brother of Je sus; emphasizes that true faith produces works of righ teous ness: (1-2) faith tested, (3) dif fi culty con trol ling the tongue, (4) warn ings against worldliness, (5) warn ings to the rich and the en cour age ment of Christ’s re turn.

IPe ter-by the apos tle; warns and com forts suf fer ing Chris tians at tacked by non-Christians: (1) joy even in suf fer ing, (2-3) ho li ness in suf fer ing, (4) new life in Christ.

II Peter-by the apos tle; warns Chris tians about false teach ers al ready among them: (1) Chris tian vir tue and the Scrip tures; (2) warn ings con cern ing false teach ers; (3) warn ings against scoff ers who deny the cre ation, the world-wide flood of Noah, and the com ing of Christ.

I John-by the apostle; opposes Gnosticism, spirit-mysticisms sim i lar to to day’s Christian-Science who deny phys i cal re al ity, and em pha sizes: (1) re al ity of the deity and hu man ity of Christ, fellowship, and for give ness; (2-3) abiding light and love in Christ, our Advocate with God; (4) false teachers, Christian love for the brethren; (5) faith victorious that over comes the world.

II John-by the apostle; warns against compromise with er ror, en cour ages to guard truth with love.

III John-by the apos tle; warns against church bosses like Diotrephes who re fuse fel low ship with ser vants of God.

Jude- prob a bly writ ten by half-brother of Je sus; warns against false doctrine, and encourages Christians to earnestly con tend for the faith which was once de liv ered unto the saints.

Prophecy-1 Book

Revelation-by the apos tle John, re veals: (1) the vi sion of the glorious Christ, (2-3) letters of instruction to seven churches, (4-22) future events yet to be ful filled end ing in the great White Throne Judg ment of the un saved and the eter nal state of the re deemed in Christ.

Biblical Chronology			
Year	Biblical Event (dates are approximate)		
96 AD	Writing of Revelation		
97-64 AD	General Epistles: James; I, II Peter; I, II, III John; Jude		
70 AD	Destruction of Jerusalem by Rome		
68 AD	Paul's 2nd Roman imprisonment: writing of II Timothy, Paul's death		
63-67 AD	Between Paul's Roman imprisonments: writing of I Timothy in Macedonia and Titus in Ephesus		
29-63 AD	Acts of the Holy Spirit		
61-63 AD	Paul's 1st Roman imprisonment: writing of Philemon, Colossians, Ephesians, Philippians, Hebrews		
54-58 AD	Paul's third missionary journey: writing of I Corinthians in Ephesus, II Corinthians in Macedonia, Galatians and Romans in Corinth		
51-54 AD	Paul's second missionary journey: writing of I, II Thessalonians in Corinth		
36 AD	Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus		
27-30 AD	Ministry, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus: recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John		
5 BC	Birth of Jesus, recorded in Matthew and Luke		
400 BC	Malachi written, end of Old Testament		
444 BC	Nehemiah rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem		
516 BC	Jerusalem Temple rebuilt, Ezra, Haggai, Zechariah		
536 BC	Remnant returns to Jerusalem from Babylon		
586 BC	Destruction of Jerusalem and Judah by Babylon		
606 BC	Judah (Southern Kingdom) conquered by Babylon		
722 BC	Destruction of Israel (Northern Kingdom), and the beginning of the Assyrian Captivity		
931 BC	Solomon's death, Promised Land divided into Israel (Northern Kingdom) & Judah (Southern Kingdom)		
(The following provide the approximate date of creation)			
Appx. Year	Years Elapsed	Biblical Event	Scripture
966 BC*	4th Yr. of Solomon's reign		
	480 Years Elapsed		I Kings 6:1
1446 BC	Date of Exodus from Egypt		
	430 Sojourn in Egypt		Exodus
12:40-41			
1876 BC	Israel Enters Egypt		
	130 Jacob's age entering Egypt		Genesis 47:9
2006 BC	Birth of Jacob		
	60 Isaac's age at Jacob's birth		Genesis 25:26
2066 BC	Birth of Isaac		
	100 Abraham's age at Isaac's birth		Genesis 21:5
2166 BC	Birth of Abraham		
	-75 Abraham's age leaving Haran		Genesis 12:4
2091 BC	Death of Abraham's father, Terah		Acts 7:2-4
	427 Genealogy, Flood to Terah's death		Genesis 11
2518 BC	World-wide Flood of Noah		
	1656 Genealogy, Adam to Noah's Flood		Genesis 5
4174 BC	Creation		
*Probably accurate within 5 years, determined from Biblical and archaeological studies			

The Bible is God's Holy Word	
The 66 books of the Bible were written by about 40 men in three languages during 1600 yrs (1500 BC to 100 AD); however, the Bible is unique in unity, showing that God is the ultimate source of all contained in the Bible. We know that the Bible, the Holy Scripture, is God's infallible Word because:	
1. The Bible claims that all scripture is given by inspiration of God (i.e., God-breathed, II Timothy 3:16).	
2. The Bible claims to be written when holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost (II Peter 1:21).	
3. The Holy Spirit confirms in the heart of the Christian that the Bible is truly the Word of God: But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my [Jesus] name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you (John 14:26).	
4. Jesus said that the Old Testament is accurate and must all be fulfilled (Luke 24:44-45).	
5. The resurrection of Jesus demonstrates that Christ is all He claims to be, and confirms the authenticity of the Bible: whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead (Acts 17:31).	
6. Archaeology and history confirm the accuracy of the Bible. Despite nearly 2000 years of attack, careful study supports even the most extreme details of Biblical accuracy!	
7. Science confirms Biblical accuracy. Science is actually the observation of God working in the universe, and scientific investigation shows that God does exactly what He says in the Bible that He does (Acts 14:15-17; Romans 1:19-20).	
8. The fulfillment of Biblical prophecy shows that the Bible is truly God's Word (Deuteronomy 18:22)	
9. The witness of transformed lives of believers who serve Christ in His churches shows forth the reality of Scriptural truth (Acts 1:8).	
Facts about the Bible	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Bible contains 66 books with 39 in the O.T. and 27 in the N.T. The middle book of the: (1) Old Testament is Proverbs, and (2) New Testament is II ThessaloniansThe Bible was divided into chapters by Stephen Langton about 1228 AD, and contains 1189 chapters with 929 in the O.T. and 260 in the N.T. If you read only 3 1/4 chapters per day, you will read the Bible every year! The middle chapter of the: (1) Bible is Psalm 117 (also the shortest chapter), (2) O.T. is Job 29, (3) N.T. is Romans 13. The longest chapter is Psalm 119 II Kings 19 is exactly like Isaiah 37.The O.T. was divided into verses by R. Nathan in 1448 AD, and the N.T. by Robert Stephanus in 1551 AD. The Geneva Bible of 1560 AD was the first published Bible divided into chapters and verses. The Bible contains 31,173 verses with 23,214 in O.T. and 7,959 in N.T. Middle verse of the: (1) Bible is Psalm 118:18, (2) O.T. is II Chronicles 20:17, (3) N.T. is Acts 17:17. Shortest verse of the: (1) Bible and N.T. is John 11:35, (2) O.T. is I Chronicles 1:25. The longest verse in the Bible is Esther 8:9. Verse with all letters of the alphabet except: (1) J is Ezra 7:21, and (2) Q is Daniel 4:37.The KJV Bible contains about 773,692 words with about 592,439 in the O.T. and 181,253 in the N.T. The longest word in the Bible is Ma'-her-shal'-al-hash'-baz (18 letters), Isaiah 8:1,3. The Bible contains about 3,566,480 letters with about 2,728,100 in the O.T. and 838,380 in the N.T.	

Summary of the Bible, Book by Book

by Dr. Gail E. Terrell

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth

II Timothy 2:15

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The Bible is our guide for life, a roadmap of holiness