

INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

Survey Of The Old Testament

This study is adapted from materials developed by Dr. David Platt, President of the International Mission Board, when he was pastor of The Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, AL

Why Study the Old Testament?

Common Myths...

- “The Old Testament is _____.”
- “The Old Testament is _____.”
- “The Old Testament is _____.”
- “The Old Testament is _____.”

The Central Message...

- “The Old Testament is _____.”

How Should We Study the Old Testament?

Examining Three Dimensions

- The _____ dimension.
- The _____ dimension.
- The _____ dimension.

What is the Old Testament? The Old Testament as Literature

A collection of _____ books...

Traditionally classified according to _____:

- Law
- History
- Prophecy
- Poetry

Written by a variety of authors...

One _____ author—the Holy spirit.

Various human authors.

Predominantly written in _____, though some is in Aramaic.

Over a span of around 1000 years.

Earliest parts written around _____ B.C.

Latest parts written around _____ B.C.

How did we get the Old Testament?

Collected into a _____.

- In AD _____ at the Council of Jamnia, Jewish Rabbis fixed the Jewish Canon to these ~~36~~³⁹ books.

Transmitted through _____.

Translated through servants.

Septuagint = the _____ Old Testament.

When and Where did the Events of the Old Testament Take Place? The Old Testament as History

The Old Testament is a _____ story set in _____ history.

Old Testament history made simple...

- In the beginning... _____, then something.
- Creation... life... creatures... _____ made in God's image.
- The Garden of eden quickly becomes the location of the _____ of Man.
- Humankind degenerates for many generations.
- God judges the world with a _____, but he spares one righteous man—noah—and his family.
- Humankind rebels at the tower of Babel—the result is division and dispersion.
- A new beginning... God's faithfulness to _____ and his family.
- Abraham's prosperity turns into Israel's slavery.
- The _____—Moses leads Israel out of Egypt.
- God gives Israel the _____.
- The people enter the promised _____, where they are ruled for a while by judges.
- Eventually a kingdom is established, epitomized by King David and his son Solomon.
- Solomon builds a _____, which becomes home of the ark of the covenant and center of the people's worship.
- After Solomon dies, the kingdom divides into Israel (Northern kingdom) and Judah (Southern kingdom).
- Idolatry grows.
- Assyria destroys _____ in 722 B.C.
- Babylon destroys _____ from 597-586 B.C.
- Survivors are taken to exile in Babylon for the next _____ years.
- A remnant returns to Jerusalem and rebuilds the temple.
- But Israel still longs for the glory it knew under David.
- The Old Testament becomes a story without an _____

An Overview of the Books of the Old Testament

Three main divisions in the Old Testament

The _____ about God's people.

- First 17 books.
- Genesis – Esther (fairly chronological)

The _____ of God's people.

- Next 5 books.
- Job – Song of Solomon

The _____ from among God's people.

- Final 17 books.
- Isaiah – Malachi (major and minor)

Methodology of our Study

Overview each section.

Overview each book.

- Primary information for starters...
- Practical advice for study...

THE STORY ABOUT GOD'S PEOPLE...

Divided into two major categories:

- The _____/The Pentateuch—Genesis through Deuteronomy.
- The _____—Joshua through Esther

The essential character of these books is narrative, telling us the story of God's people—
_____.

Genesis

Primary information for Starters...

_____ is the author of the five books of Law.

Genesis literally means “_____.”

Before the fall - The beginning of creation.

After the fall - The beginning of God's plan to _____ His creation.

Practical Advice for Study...

The first _____ chapters are foundational to the rest of the Bible.

Catch hold of the major themes...

- The _____ of God.
- The sinfulness of man
- The promise of redemption

Catch hold of the major plot—God's gracious _____ of Abraham's family.

- Abraham (12:1-25:18)
- Isaac (25:19-26:35)
- Jacob (27:1-36:43)
- Joseph (37:1-50:26)

Minor subplots...

- Already looking to Christ (3:15; 22:7-14; 35:11-13; 49:8-12).
- _____ with Adam, Noah, and Abraham.
- Major _____ in main characters.

Don't forget—Genesis wasn't written to answer _____ question we may have about these events.

Exodus

Primary Information for Starters...

Literally means “_____.”

God is all-powerful and mighty to _____ (1-19).

God is faithful to His covenant (20-40).

Practical Advice for Study...

Notice three defining moments in Israel's history...

- The deliverance from slavery.
- The significance of God's _____.
- The terms of the covenant.

Key Chapters

- Exodus 12 – The sacrifice of the _____.
- Exodus 20 – The giving of the _____.

Key Places

- Egypt
- The Red Sea
- Mount Sinai

Recognize both the sovereignty of God and the _____ of man.

- God hardens Pharaoh's heart (4:21; 7:3; 9:12; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:4, 8, 17).
- Pharaoh hardens his heart (7:13, 14, 22; 8:11, 15, 28; 9:7, 34, 35; 13:5).

If we don't understand Exodus, we won't understand the _____!

Leviticus

Primary Information for Starters...

Takes place at Mount Sinai.

Referred to as "The Law of the _____."

A book about _____ (mentioned over 90 times!).

A book about _____.

Practical Advice for Study...

Two main sections...

- Fellowship with God through _____ offerings (1-17).
- Fellowship with God through _____ living (18-27).

One main chapter...

- Leviticus 16 – The Day of _____.
- "Atonement" = "to cover" (used 45 times in the book!).
- Necessary elements...

A _____ priest.

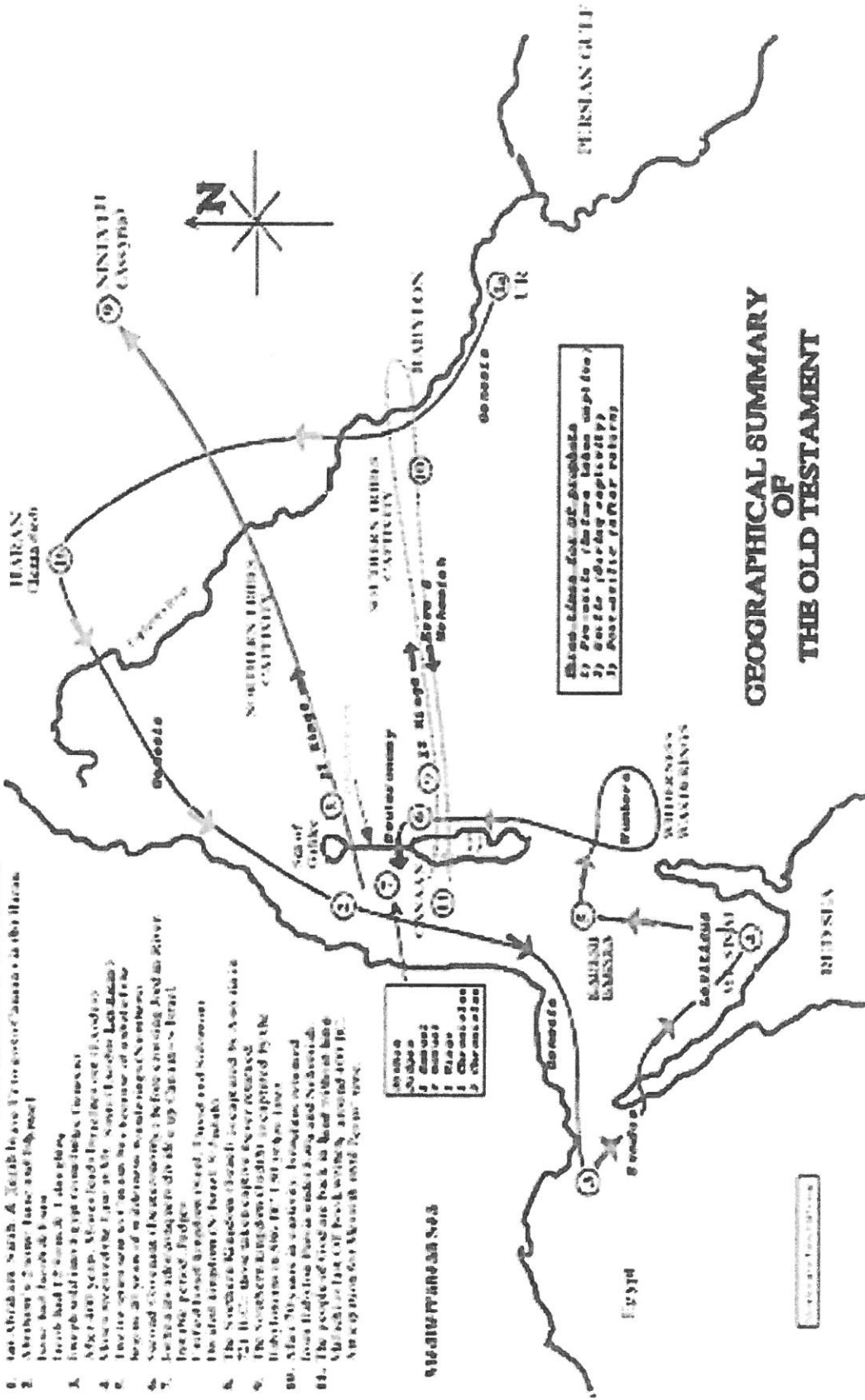
A _____ sacrifice.

Don't miss the practical application...

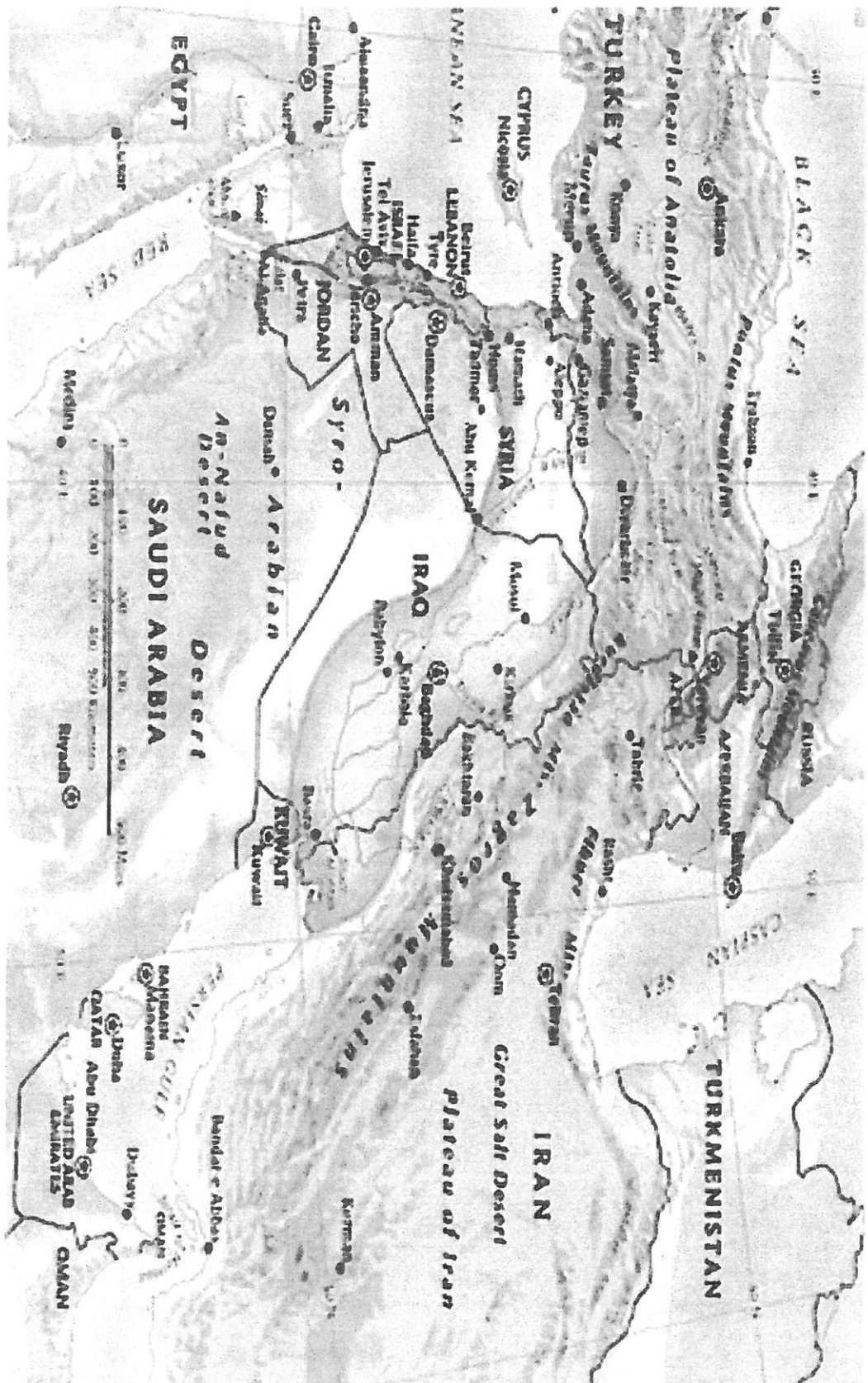
- God is _____.
- Sin is _____.
- God is _____.

SUMMARY OF OLD TESTAMENT EVENTS

1. In Abraham's time, a tribe known as the Amorites lived in the Haran basin.
2. Abraham's 2 sons, Isaac and Ishmael, were born to him.
3. Isaac had 12 sons, 11 of whom were the founders of the 12 tribes of Israel.
4. Joseph and his brothers went to Egypt to help with the famine.
5. The Israelites lived in Egypt for 400 years.
6. The Israelites were enslaved in Egypt.
7. Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt to the Promised Land.
8. The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for 40 years.
9. The Israelites entered the Promised Land.
10. The Israelites were united as a nation.
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GEOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



Old Testament Overview

Persons	Periods and Events	Contemporary Cultures	Old Testament Books Written
Adam	Before the PATRIARCHS Creation Flood	Prehistorical Era	
Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph	PATRIARCHS Abraham enters the land c. 2090 bc. Joseph Prime Minister c. 1885-1805 bc.	Patriarchal Narratives reflect culture of Mesopotamia and Egypt	Job
Moses	EGYPTIAN SOJOURN c. 1875 - 1445 bc. WILDERNESS WANDERING c. 1445 - 1405 bc.	Egypt enslaves the Israelites	Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy
Joshua, Deborah, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson	CONQUEST AND JUDGES c. 1405 - 1050 bc.	Philistine occupied, various nations oppress Israel	Joshua, Judges
Samuel, Saul, David, Solomon	UNITED MONARCHY Established 1050 bc.	Surrounding nations defeated by Israel	1st & 2nd Samuel, 1st & 2nd Kings, Song of Solomon, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes
DIVIDED MONARCHY 931 - 722 Divided 931			
SOUTH: Rehoboam	NORTH: Jeroboam I	Aramean Kingdom 931 - 732	Obadiah, Joel, Jonah, Amos, Hosea, Isaiah, Micah
Jehoshaphat Uzziah	Ahaz Jeroboam II	Fall of Aram c. 732 Assyrian domination of Philistia 745-650	Nahum, Zephaniah
Hezekiah	Fall of Samaria c. 722 JUDAH ALONE 722-586		Jeremiah, Lamentations, Habakkuk, Kings, Daniel, Ezekiel
Josiah	Daniel's Captivity Ezekiel's Captivity		
Jeremiah	Fall of Jerusalem c. 586	Babylonian Supremacy 625 - 539	Haggai, Zechariah
Zerubbabel Haggai Zechariah	RESTORATION 538 - c. 400 Second Temple	Achaemenid Persia 539 - 331	Chronicles, Ezra, Esther
Malachi	Ezra's Return c. 458 Nehemiah's Return c. 444		Nehemiah, Malachi

Numbers

Primary Information for Starters...

Named for _____ accounts in 1-4 and 26-27.

God honors faith and punishes unbelief.

The root of sin is _____—a lack of trust in God's Word.

Practical Advice for Study...

Look for six definite failures of God's people between the census records.

- Complaining (10:11-12:16)
- _____ at Kadesh-Barnea (13:1-14:45)
- Rebelling (15:1-19:22)
- _____ (20:1-29)
- Complaining (21:1-35)
- Adultery and Immorality (25:1-18)

See the price of unbelief in the geography and time frames of Numbers.

- Geography
 - Sinai (1:1-10:10)
 - Journey to Kadesh (10:11-13:25)
 - Encamped at Kadesh (13:26-20:21)
 - Journey to Moab (20:22-21:35)
 - Encamped at Moab (22:1-36:13)
- Time Frames
 - 1-10 – 20 days.
 - 11-14 – 70 days.
 - 15-20 – _____ years.
 - 21-36 – 5 months

See the God who is faithful despite His people's failures.

Deuteronomy

Primary Information for Starters...

“_____ Law”—restating the Law to the new generation.

A _____ of the covenant as they prepare for the Promised Land.

Practical Advice for Study...

See how the Law applies to _____ of God's people.

_____ the Shema (6:4-5)

- One God.
- One Word.
- One _____ (repeated at least 20 times).

Look for their...

- Anticipation of the land.
- Commitment to the _____.
 - A new generation.
 - A new challenge.
 - A new _____.
- New temptations.

Read it closely... it's the most _____ book in the Bible (356 times—190 in the New Testament!).

THE NEXT 12 BOOKS IN THE STORY...

Pre-monarchy – 3 Books

- Continuing the story—Joshua and Judges
- _____ (spotlight possibly around Judges 10)

Monarchy – 6 (3 double books).

- Continuing the story—Samuel and Kings
- _____ (spotlight around the Davidic kingdom)

Post-monarchy – 3 Books

- Continuing the story—Ezra and Nehemiah
- _____ (spotlight during the time of Ezra)

Joshua

Primary Information for Starters...

Joshua's name literally means "The Lord will _____."

In Greek, the name is equivalent to "_____."

The people of God claim the inheritance God had promised them.

God will keep His _____ (21:43-45).

Practical Advice for Study...

See the journey into the Promised Land...

- May even be good to read with a map nearby.
- _____ (1:1-5:12)
- Take (5:13-12:24)
- Divide (13-21)
- _____ (22-24)

Judges

Primary Information for Starters...

Key Characters: God used judges (_____ leaders) to deliver His people out from under their sin.

Key Theme: Disobedience results in judgment.

Key Verse: "Every man did that which was _____ in his own eyes" (17:6).

Key Chapter: 2—a miniature version of the whole book (summary in 2:10-19).

Practical Advice for Study...

Observe the structure of oppression and deliverance.

- Failure to conquer the land (1:1-2:9)
- Failure to keep the law (2:9-3:6)
- _____ and _____ (repeated 8 times from 3-16)
- Failure to conquer the land (17-18)
- Failure to keep the law (19-21)

Observe the cycle of disobedience and victory (3-16).

- _____
- Ruin.

- Repentance.
- _____.
- Rest.

Observe the gradual deterioration of Israel.

Ruth

Primary Information for Starters...

Ruth means “friendship.”

Overall purpose is to _____ the royal lineage of King David (and Jesus).
Boaz, a kinsman-redeemer, pays the price to bring Ruth, a Moabite, into the people of God.

Practical Advice for Study...

Pay attention closely to the transition in Naomi’s life...

- From emptiness to fullness (1).
- From despair to _____ (2-3).
- From barrenness to inheritance (4).

Even in the darkness of God’s people, He shines the _____ of His covenant.

Don’t miss the point...

- Connect 4:13 with Genesis 12:1-3.
- Connect 4:14 with Matthew 1:1-7 (especially 1:5).

1 and 2 Samuel

Primary Information for Starters...

Time frame: From Samuel’s birth (1100) to the end of David’s kingship (970).

Overall theme: _____.

- 1 Samuel depicts transition from theocracy to monarchy.
- 2 Samuel depicts David’s dynasty as king.

Three key characters:

- Samuel (1 Samuel 1-7) – the last judge; anoints first two kings over Israel.
- Saul (1 Samuel 8-15) – Israel’s first king.
- _____ (1 Samuel 16 – 2 Samuel 24) – Israel’s second and most important king.

Key verse: 1 Samuel 15:22 – “To obey is better than sacrifice.”

Practical Advice for Study...

Look for how the King of Israel was expected to be _____ to the covenant.

- Saul’s disobedience to the covenant – 1 Samuel 15.
- David’s obedience to the covenant - 2 Samuel 7.

Pay attention to the _____ in 1 and 2 Samuel:

- From the rule of periodic judges to a more permanent monarchy;
- From a typical worldly expectation of a king to a king that is loyal to the Lord;
- From no central place of where God’s name dwells to a new center in Jerusalem.

Even as a king after God’s heart, David’s life demonstrates the need for another King who will come in purity and absolute loyalty to the Lord.

- His kingly _____ is described in one chapter (8).

- His kingly _____ and its effects are described over eleven chapters (10-20).

1 and 2 Kings

Primary Information for Starters...

Contains over _____ hundred years of Israelite history (970-560).

This chronology grouped into four segments, each ending with a major _____.

- 970-931 – Division of the twelve tribes.
- 931-841 – Jehu's slaughter of all but one of the crown-prince heirs of the throne of David.
- 841-722 – Fall of Samaria to Assyria
- 722-586 – Fall of Jerusalem to Babylon

Two major themes:

- The _____ of Israel as God's people.
- The _____ of prophets who proclaim God's Word.

Practical Advice for Study...

The overall structure...

- The united kingdom (1 Kings 1-11)
- The divided kingdom (1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 17)
- The captive kingdom (2 Kings 18-25)

Covers 39 kings from the united and divided monarchy.

Covenant loyalty is the measure of success or downfall for a king.

- _____ of the 19 Northern kings followed the Lord.
- _____ of the 20 Southern kings followed the Lord.

Asa, Jehosaphat, Joash, Amaziah, Uzziah, Jotham, Hezekiah, Josiah

As kings are disloyal, God raises up _____ like Elijah and Elisha to accomplish His purpose.

1 and 2 Chronicles

Primary Information for Starters...

Final book in the Hebrew Bible.

Possibly written by _____.

Written more from a spiritual kingdom perspective.

- Focuses exclusively on the _____ facets of David and Solomon.
- Demonstrates the blessing of God on _____ kings in Judah.
- Pictures a more idealized representation of the kingdom of God.

Central focus on the _____ and Israel's wholehearted worship.

Practical Advice for Study...

Understand the perspective of the author – trying to _____ the kingdom.

The story told in the chronicles has three parts:

- Genealogies (1 Chronicles 1-9) – Don't get bogged down!
- United Monarchy (1 Chronicles 10 - 2 Chronicles 9)
- Divided Monarchy in Judah (2 Chronicles 10-36)

See the emphasis on God's goodness when the _____ of God is renewed in Israel...

- When the ark is brought to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 16:34).
- When the ark is brought into the temple (2 Chronicles 5:13).
- When the temple is consecrated (2 Chronicles 7:3)

Ezra - Nehemiah

Primary Information for Starters...

One book in the Hebrew Bible as they tell one story.

- The return of the _____ to Jerusalem.
- The rebuilding of the _____.
- The rebuilding of the city _____.

The author is likely Ezra or Nehemiah.

"Ezra" = "helper;" "Nehemiah" = "God is comfort."

God sovereignly works to _____ His people for His glory.

Practical Advice for Study...

Overall structure...

- National Restoration (Ezra 1-6)
- Spiritual _____ (Ezra 7-10)
- Physical Repair (Nehemiah 1-6)
- Spiritual _____ (Nehemiah 7-13)

See both the physical and spiritual reform.

- Rebuilding the temple and walls.
- Repenting of sin.
- Renewing the _____ (Ezra 10; Nehemiah 9-10).

Nehemiah 8-10 is the high point of the story with a covenant-renewal ceremony.
_____ and obedience to the Word are at the heart of the covenant.

Esther

Primary Information for Starters...

Events take place before or during time of Ezra.

God's providence is evident, though His name is _____ mentioned.

Four main characters...

- Persian King Xerxes (mentioned by name 29 times)
- Haman (mentioned by name 48 times)
- Mordecai (mentioned by name 54 times)
- Esther (mentioned by name 48 times)

The people of Israel are saved by God's providence from _____.

Practical Advice for Study...

Though God's name is not mentioned, look for evidence of His _____.

- Esther being chosen...
- Mordecai discovering the plot to kill the king...
- Casting lots to destroy the Jews...
- The king's welcome to Esther after ignoring her for a month...

- The king's deep concern for Esther's welfare...

Compare Esther and Proverbs

- Esther 3:7 with Proverbs 16:33
- Esther 5:9-14 with Proverbs 16:18
- Esther 7:10 with Proverbs 11:8
- Esther 5:1-4 with Proverbs 21:2

Recognize the _____ of the godly on the lost.
What does this mean for the way we use our influence?

REVIEW: THE STORY ABOUT GOD'S PEOPLE

EDEN - (Genesis 1-2) - People - God's Blessing on His People

THE FALL - (Genesis 3-11) - People—God's Blessing and Judgment

PATRIARCHS - (Genesis 12-50)

EXODUS & CONQUEST - (Exodus-1 Samuel 8)

MONARCHY - (1 Samuel 9 - 1 Kings 11; 1 Chronicles - 2 Chronicles 9)

ANARCHY - (1 Kings 12 - 2 Kings; 2 Chronicles 10 - Esther)

THE WRITINGS OF GOD'S PEOPLE...

Also known as _____ and wisdom literature.

Stand in the final position of the Hebrew Bible.

Include man's _____ to the words and deeds of God found throughout the Law and the Prophets.

Divine speech is _____.

Primary theme: The _____ of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 1:7).

Job

Primary Information for Starters...

A lot of questions...

- Written anonymously.
- Written most likely during the patriarchal period.

Job was a real man in real history (Ezekiel 14:14-20; James 5:11).

The Question: How and why do the _____ suffer?

God is completely sovereign in His dealings with His people and will never allow anything to come to them which is not for their _____ and His _____.

Practical Advice for Study...

Remember...

- This is an Oriental book.
- This is a poetical book.
- This is a _____ book.

Don't be too intimidated by the structure...

- Prologue (1:1-2:13)
- Poetry (2:14-42:6)
 - Three dialogues (4-27)
 - “Where does _____ come from?” (28)
 - Three monologues (29-41)
- Epilogue (42:-17)

Don't look for an _____ answer.

Practically...

- God _____ is Sovereign.
- Suffering is a _____ God extends to His children.
- God is glorified when suffering saints _____ Him.

Psalms

Primary Information for Starters...

Psalms = “a poem sung to musical accompaniment.”

The _____ of the Jewish nation.

Written by many authors from the early monarchy until after the exile.

- David, Asaph, the sons of Korah, others

Express trust in and praise to the Lord for His greatness and goodness.

The Lord is the sovereign _____ of the universe and the nations.

Practical Advice for Study...

Five divisions, each concluding with a doxology, which reflect Israel's _____:

- Book 1 (1-41)
- Book 2 (42-72)
- Book 3 (73-89)
- Book 4 (90-106)
- Book 5 (107-150)

Types of Psalms...

- Personal _____
- Personal _____
- Corporate praise
- Corporate lament

Also includes wisdom psalms and royal psalms.

- Psalm 22 – The crucified Savior.
- Psalm 23 – The _____.
- Psalm 40:68 – The sacrifice.
- Psalm 118:2-3 – The stone.

Proverbs

Primary Information for Starters...

“Proverb” = “_____”

Solomon wrote most of Proverbs.

Foundational Passage: Proverbs 1:1-7.

Major themes:

- Attain wisdom and reject _____.
- Walk in righteousness and avoid _____.

Practical Advice for Study...

Read a _____ of Proverbs a day.

Overall structure...

- Preface (1:1-7)
- Introduction (1:8-9:18)
- Proverbs of Solomon I (10:1-22:16)
- Sayings of the Wise I (22:17-24:22)
- Sayings of the Wise II (24:23-34)
- Proverbs of Solomon II (25:1-29:27)
- Sayings of Agur (30:1-33)
- Sayings of Lemuel (31:1-31)

Reminders about proverbs...

- _____.
- Practical.
- _____.
- Variety of _____ techniques.
- Not guarantees, but guidelines.
- _____ advice, but not exhaustive.

The goal of wisdom literature is to _____ the Word to practical living.

_____ is the wisdom of God (see 8:22-31).

Ecclesiastes

Primary Information for Starters...

Written by “the _____” – likely Solomon (1:1-2, 12).

Key question: Is _____ really worth living?

Key words: man, labor, under the sun, _____, wisdom, evil.

Practical Advice for Study...

One of the most difficult books in the Old Testament.

Look for major ideas:

- God is the _____ Reality, the Creator of all.
- God’s ways are not always understandable.
- Life does not always progress as expected.
- _____ is the ultimate equalizer.

Don’t forget – Ecclesiastes is a book without an _____.

Practical application...

- Enjoy the blessings of God _____.

- Fear God.
- _____ God's Word.

Song of Songs

Primary Information

Song of Songs = The _____ of all songs!

Like Esther, Song of Songs never mentions the name of God.

Theme: Celebrating the sexual love between a man and woman.

Practical Advice for Study...

Three main characters...

- The woman (leading role) – “Beloved”
- The man – “_____”
- The woman's companion's (“the daughters of Jerusalem”) – “Friends”

Three possibilities for interpretation...

- _____ – A man and a woman.
- _____ – God and His people, Israel.
- _____ – Christ and His church.

See the _____ and unquenchable nature of true love.

THE PROPHETS FROM AMONG GOD'S PEOPLE

Picture the prophets as God's _____ on the story of God's people

Remember the historical context...

- A time of political, military, economic, and social upheaval;
- A time characterized by much _____ to God's covenant;
- A time of international shifts in the balance of power.

Remember that prophets speak of both the _____ future and the _____ future.

Remember that much of the language of the prophets was _____.

Isaiah [Prophet to Judah]

Primary Information for Starters...

"Isaiah" = "the Lord _____."

Time period: 760-680 B.C.

Historical setting: Isaiah prophesied concerning the destruction of Israel by _____ and the exile in Babylon.

God's people (and all nations) are destined for _____ judgment and salvation.

Practical Advice for Study...

Two primary sections comprise this miniature _____:

- Present _____ (1-39)
39 books that display the effects of sin and the judgment of God.
- Future _____ (40-66)
27 books that describe the merciful servant and the comfort of God.

Look for four major ideas:

- The Lord is the "Holy _____ of Israel" (mentioned 30 times)
- Israel is the Lord's "holy _____" (62:12).
- Jerusalem is God's "holy _____" (48:2) and "holy mountain" (11:9; 27:13).
- The Lord is calling the Gentiles (the nations) to worship Him (2:2; 56:7)

Isaiah gives a rich picture of Christ...

- His birth (7:14).
- His life (61:1-2).
- His _____ (52:13-53:12).
- His resurrection (55:3).

Jeremiah [Prophet to Judah]

Primary Information for Starters...

"Jeremiah" = "The Lord _____"

Time period: 626-586 B.C.

Historical setting: Jeremiah prophesied during the last 40 years of Judah's history – until its destruction at the hands of _____.

A call to _____ and return to covenant loyalty to God.

Key Chapters...

- Jeremiah 7 – The _____ address.
- Jeremiah 31 – The new _____.

Practical Advice for Study...

Jeremiah is the _____ book in the Bible.

Overall structure...

- Personal – God's call to Jeremiah (1)
 - National – Messages to Judah (2-33)
 - Personal – Jeremiah's _____ (34-45)
 - International – Messages to the nations (46-51)
 - Personal – God's vindication of Jeremiah
- God's heart for His people is revealed through the _____ of His prophet.

Learn from object lessons.

- Potter's clay (18), clay pots (19), and baskets of figs (24).

Lamentations [Written by Jeremiah]

Primary Information for Starters...

"Lamentations" = "_____ poems."

Time period: 586-585 B.C.

Historical setting: The _____ of Jerusalem at the hands of Babylon.

Reveals the _____ heart of God over sin.

Practical Advice for Study...

Each chapter is a separate funeral poem.

The verses in each chapter are arranged in an _____ where the first letter of each stanza (verse) corresponds to the Hebrew alphabet.

- Chapter 3 is the climax...

_____ the weight of the destruction of the people of God – famine, thirst, cannibalism, rape, slaughter.

Key Passage: Lamentations 3:22-24

- Great is your _____ ...

Ezekiel [Prophet to Judah while in Exile]

Primary Information for Starters...

"Ezekiel" = "God _____."

Time period: 592-570 B.C.

Historical setting: Prophecy to the Jews held _____ by Babylon.

"The _____ of the Lord came to me..." (approximately 50 times)

Ezekiel's twofold purpose:

- Promote _____ and faith.
- Stimulate hope and trust.

Practical Advice for Study...

Overall structure...

- Introduction – God calls Ezekiel (1-3)
 - The Judgment against Judah (4-24)
 - The Judgment against the Nations (25-32)
 - The Restoration of God’s People (33-48)

Reads like a _____ book – filled with symbolic actions, visions, allegorical pictures.

Emphasizes the glory of God in His _____.

Ezekiel _____ out his prophecy.

- Play at war (4:1-3).
- Lie on his side a certain number of days (4:4-17).
- Shave his hair and beard (5:1-4).
- Act like someone fleeing from war (12:1-16).
- Sit and sigh (21:1-7).
- Endure the death of his _____ (24:15-27).

Daniel [Prophet to Judah while in Exile]

Primary Information for Starters...

“Daniel” = “God is my _____.”

Time period: Late sixth century (535 B.C.?)

Historical setting: Daniel had been deported to Babylon and served in three different kingdoms: Babylonia, Media, Persia.

Written in _____ Hebrew and Aramaic.

God is sovereign over all _____ and all history.

Practical Advice for Study...

Overall structure...

- Personal History - Court stories (1-6)
- Prophetic Ministry - Apocalyptic visions (7-12)

Daniel’s prophecy covers time from captivity of Jerusalem to Christ’s _____ to earth to judge the nations and establish His kingdom.

Hosea [Prophet to Israel – Though he was from Judah]

Primary Information for Starters...

“Hosea” = “_____”

Time period: 758-722 B.C. (see 2 Kings 15-17)

Historical setting: Prophesying to Israel preceding their captivity by Assyria.

God’s unfailing love for an _____ people.

Practical Advice for Study...

Overall structure...

- The _____ of Israel’s unfaithfulness (1-3)
- The prophecy of God’s faithfulness (4-14)
 - The sins of Israel (4-7)

The judgment of Israel (8-10)

The restoration of Israel (11-14)

Note Hosea's metaphors...

- To describe _____ – lion, leopard, bear eagle, husband, over, parent.
- To describe _____ – adulterer, snare, heated oven, senseless dove, faulty bow, headless talk, a baby refusing birth, mist, chaff, smoke, like a twig on water.

Feel the heart of a God who judges unfaithfulness, yet _____ with love for His people.

Joel [Prophet to Judah]

Primary Information for Starters...

Time period: unknown.

Historical setting: Following a _____ plague among God's people.

The impending _____ is a day of judgment and salvation.

Practical Advice for Study...

Overall structure...

- The day of the Lord typified (1:1-2:17)
- The day of the Lord prophesied (2:18-3:21)

“Day of the Lord” – when God will pour out His _____ on the Gentile nations because of their sins against Israel.

See major biblical _____ throughout: God's wrath against sin, the need for repentance, the grace, salvation, and the spirit of God.

Amos [Prophet to Israel although he was from Judah]

Primary Information for Starters...

“Amos” = “_____.”

Time Period: 765-750 B.C. (see 2 Kings 14:23-15:7)

Historical setting: Prophesying in a time of _____ approximately 25 years before Israel's destruction.

God has rejected Israel's religious and social practices.

Practical Advice for Study...

Overall structure...

- Amos looks around - Judgment on the Nations (1-2)
- Amos looks _____ - Judgment on God's People (3-6)
- Amos looks ahead - Visions of Destruction and Ultimate Restoration (7-9)

See two primary offenses against God:

- _____ syncretism (1:7-8; 4:4-5; 5:21-26; 8:10, 14).
- _____ injustice (2:6-8; 3:9-10; 4:1; 5:7, 10-13, 15, 24; 6:12; 8:4-6).

Consider the _____ between these two offenses and the two great commandments in the new testament.

Obadiah [Prophet to Judah]

Primary Information for Starters...

Time period: 586 B.C.

Historical setting: Probably just after the fall of Jerusalem.

Prophecy of God's judgment on _____ for their sins against God's people.

- Edom – descendants of _____.
- Israel – descendants of _____.

Practical Advice for Study...

_____ book in the old testament.

Overall structure...

- The coming doom of Edom (1-16)
- The coming restoration of Israel (17-21)

Read Obadiah alongside Psalm _____.

Be reminded of God's ultimate _____ over earthly powers.

Jonah [Prophet to Nineveh but from Judah]

Primary Information for Starters...

Time period: 780-750 B.C.

Historical setting: A time when the Assyrians were a cruel, heartless people, hated by the people of Israel.

The people of God are reluctant to acknowledge the _____ of God for the nations.

Practical Advice for Study...

Overall structure...

- Jonah's _____ (1)
- Jonah's Repentance (2)
- Assyria's Revival (3)
- Jonah's Rebellion (4)

Imagine reading this from the _____ of an Israelite.

Connect the story of Jonah with the _____ of God's blessing in Genesis 12:1-3.

Micah [Prophet from Judah but he predicts the downfall of Samaria and the eventual desolation of Judea.]

Primary Information for Starters...

Time period: 740-686

Historical setting: A contemporary of Isaiah before Assyria's destruction of Israel.

God's judgment on _____ and _____.

Practical Advice for Study...

Composed of three sermons (1-2; 3-5; 6-7).

Each sermon includes two emphases:

- Oracles of judgment.
- Oracles of future hope.

Structure of prophecy reflects _____ of God's justice and mercy.

Nahum [From Judah prophesied the fall of Ninevah, Assyria that occurred in 612 B.C.]

Primary Information for Starters...

Time period: 630-610 B.C. (see 2 Kings 17-23)

Historical setting: Assyria had conquered Israel and was at the peak of power, and Nahum prophesied concerning her destruction.

God is sovereign and will _____ judgment against evil.

Practical Advice for Study...

See the variety of _____ of prophecy – hymn, salvation, doom, taunt, dirge.

Consider how the God of _____ and grace can also be the God of _____ and judgment.

Habakkuk [Prophet to Judah – a Contemporary of Jeremiah]

Primary Information for Starters...

Time period: sometime between 625-586 B.C. (see 2 Kings 22-23)

Historical setting: The time period leading up to Babylon's attack on Jerusalem.

How do people _____ with evil while God seems to do nothing?

God's people can _____ in His justice, power, and faithfulness.

Practical Advice for Study...

The overall structure:

- The Prophet's Dialogue with the Lord (1-2)
- The Prophet's Prayer to the Lord (3)

The overall truth: God will do something about human _____.

Zephaniah [Prophet to Judah]

Primary Information for Starters...

Time period: sometime between 640-609 B.C. (see 2 Kings 22-23)

Historical setting: A contemporary of Habakkuk, leading up to Babylon's destruction of Jerusalem.

God is bringing _____ judgment and _____ salvation to Judah.

Practical Advice for Study...

Overall structure...

- God will judge Judah (1:1-2:3).
- God will judge the Nations (2:4-3:7).
- God will restore His people (3:8-20).

The _____ of the Lord (17 times between 1:7-2:3) – a coming Day of Judgment on the wicked.

God's people will one day exchange _____ for honor.

Haggai [Prophet to Judah after the Exile]

Primary Information for Starters...

Time period: Around 520 B.C. (see Ezra 1-6)

Historical setting: The people had returned to Jerusalem from the exile and had stalled work on rebuilding the _____.
God's people must rebuild His temple to restore their _____.

Practical Advice for Study...

Overall structure...

- The First Word – rebuild the temple (1:1-11).
- The Second Word – continue the work (1:12-2:9).
- The Third Word – commit to purity (2:10-19).
- The Final Word – trust the Lord (2:20-23).

Remember the significance of the temple in Israel's history.

Note the _____ between present hope and future glory regarding the temple (2:1-5, 6-9).

Zechariah [Prophet to Judah early after the exile]

Primary Information for Starters...

"Zechariah" = "The Lord _____."

Time period: starting in 520 and extending into the 400s.

Historical setting: A contemporary of Haggai in post-exilic Jerusalem.

Two primary themes:

- Israel's city (_____) will be restored to peace and glory.
- Israel's king (_____) will be slain for the sins of his people and will triumph over his enemies.

Practical Advice for Study...

Overall structure:

- Visions of Deliverance and Restoration (1-8)
- Victory of God Over All Nations (9-14)

Keep in mind both present and future fulfillment in Zechariah's prophecy.

Compare Zechariah 11-13 with _____.

Malachi

Primary Information for Starters...

"Malachi" = "My _____."

Time period: Around 460-400 B.C.

Historical setting: Postexilic Jerusalem close to the time of the reforms of Nehemiah and Ezra

The Lord is _____ to His covenant and requires faithfulness from his covenant people.

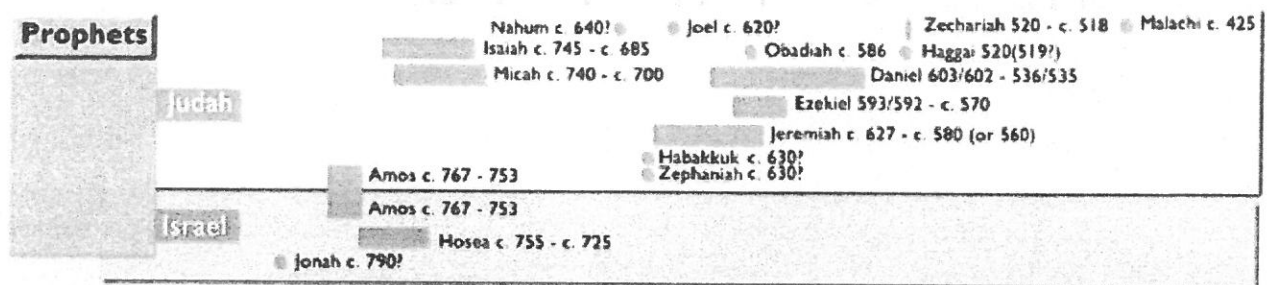
Practical Advice for Study...

Contains six disputes between the Lord and His people regarding their covenant disloyalty, each following a similar pattern:

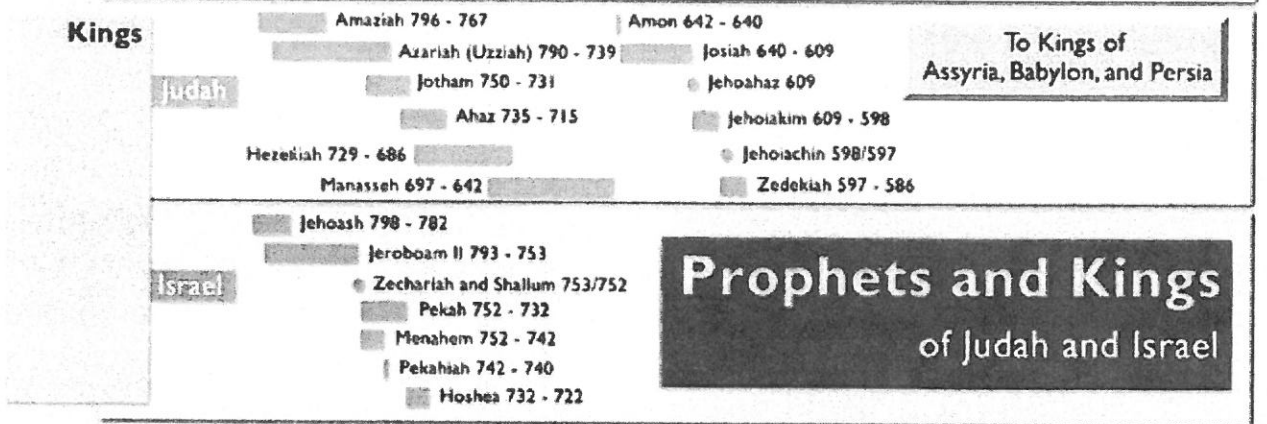
- The Lord confronts the people.
- The people _____ the Lord.
- The Lord responds to the people.

Compare the sins described in Malachi with Ezra 9-10 and Nehemiah 13.
Concludes with _____ of a coming messenger of the covenant.

Prophets



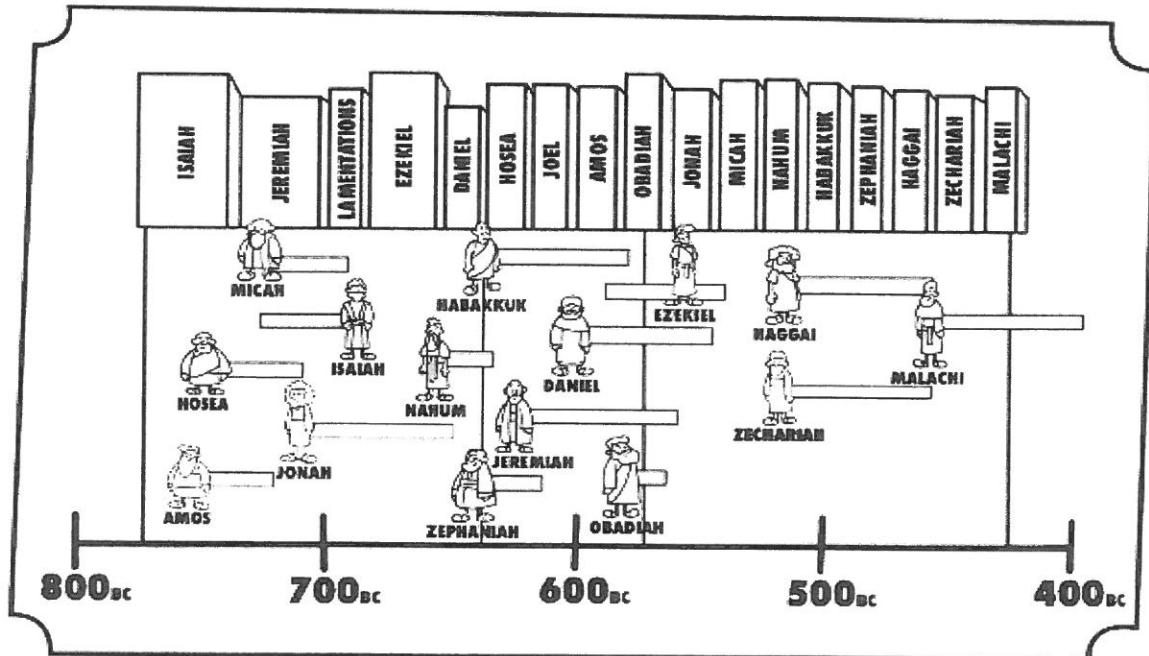
Kings



Prophets and Kings of Judah and Israel

Time B.C. 800 750 700 650 600 550 500 450 400

Josiah's reform 623-22
 Fall of Thebes 663
 Sennacherib's first Palestinian campaign, 701
 Fall of Samaria 723/722
 Fall of Damascus 732
 Return of Zerubbabel 536
 Fall of Babylon 539
 Fall of Jerusalem 586
 Fall of Nineveh 612
 Return of Nehemiah 444
 Return of Ezra 457



The Major & Minor Prophets

Survey of the New Testament

HOW SHOULD WE STUDY THE NEW TESTAMENT? EXAMINING THREE DIMENSIONS

- The _____ dimension.
- The historical dimension.
- The _____ dimension.

What Is The New Testament? The New Testament As Literature

- ◆ A collection of _____ books...
- ◆ Written by one divine author and approximately _____ human authors...
- ◆ In Koine Greek, the common language of the people...
- ◆ Over a span of less than 100 years.
- ◆ Three key genres in New Testament literature...
 - Historical _____.
 - Epistle.
 - Revelation.
- ◆ Three key characteristics of New Testament literature...
 - Historical _____.
 - Textual authenticity.
 - Divine _____.

When And Where Did The Events Of The New Testament Take Place? The New Testament As History

- ◆ The Intertestamental Time Period
 - Persian Rule
 - Greek Rule
 - Maccabean Period: 166-63 B.C.
 - _____ Period: 63 B.C. – New Testament.
- ◆ The Timeline of the New Testament...
 - The life of Christ begins between 4-6 B.C. at the earliest.
 - The book of Revelation is written near the close of the first century.
- ◆ The Timeliness of the New Testament...
 - The right time _____.
 - The right time religiously.
 - The right time culturally.
 - The right time _____.

AN OVERVIEW OF THE BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

- ◆ Three primary divisions:
 - The _____ of the New Testament.
 - About 60% of the New Testament.
 - First 5 books.
 - Matthew – Acts.
 - The _____ of the New Testament.
 - Next 21 books.
 - Romans – Jude.
 - The _____ of the New Testament.
 - Final book.
 - Revelation.
- ◆ Methodology:
 - Overview each section.
 - Overview each book.
 - Primary information for starters...
 - Practical advice for study...

THE STORY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT...

- ◆ The life and ministry of _____ (Matthew - John).
 - Written for the same primary _____.
 - Written from different viewpoints.
 - Written for different _____.
- ◆ The life and ministry of the _____ (Acts).
 - “Part Two” of Luke’s Gospel.
- ◆ **Matthew**
 - Primary Information for Starters...*
 - Written...
 - By Matthew, a Jewish tax collector.
 - In the 70s-80s A.D., soon after the destruction of the _____.
 - To Jewish Christians and/or Jews considering faith in Christ.
 - Primary theme: Jesus is the “_____ of the Jews.”
 - Key Verses: 1:20-23; 16:13-20; 28:18-20.
 - Practical Advice for Study...*
 - Look for the focus on the “_____ of God” in the book’s overall structure:
 - 1 – 4:11 – Introduction of the King.

- 4:12-7:29 – Proclamation of the kingdom.
- 8:1-10:42 – The power and mission of the kingdom.
- 11:1-13:52 – Questioning of the kingdom.
- 13:53–18:35 – Opposition to and confession of the kingdom.
- 19:1-25:46 – Reception and rejection of the kingdom.
- 26–28 – Victory of the King.
- Look up _____ - there's 129 references of allusions to 25 of the 39 Old Testament books!
- When reading about the teachings of Jesus, remember to put yourself in the hearers' shoes.

◆ Mark

Primary Information for Starters...

- Written...
 - By John Mark, who was close to _____.
 - Between 65-70 A.D.
 - To Gentile Christians in Rome who were suffering persecution.
- Primary theme: Jesus is the “Suffering _____ of God.”
- Key Verses: 8:31-38; 10:43-45

Practical Advice for Study...

- Keep up! Mark shows Jesus constantly on the move.
 - 41 times he says, “And _____...”
- Notice that almost _____ of his Gospel is devoted to events in the last week of Jesus' life.
- Overall structure:
 - The Servant's Ministry in Galilee (1-9)
 - The Servant's Journey to Jerusalem (10)
 - The Servant's Last Week of Ministry (11-15)
 - The Servant's Victory (16)
- NOTE: The _____ Gospels - “see together”
 - The certainty:
 - Matthew, Mark, and Luke “see” the life and ministry of Christ in a very similar way.
 - The confusion:
 - Is Mark the primary source for Matthew and Luke?
 - _____ % of Mark's words are in Matthew.
 - _____ % of Mark's words are in Luke.
 - Is there an unknown source that was a foundation for these books?
 - The conclusion:
 - Matthew, Mark, and Luke did not write their Gospels in _____ from one another.

◆ Luke

Primary Information for Starters...

- Written...

- By Luke, a Gentile physician, historian, and companion of _____.
- In the 70s or 80s A.D.
- To Theophilus, primarily for Gentile Christians.
- Primary theme: Jesus is the perfect “Son of Man” who brings _____ to both Jews and Gentiles.
- Key verses: 1:1-4; 15; 19:10 (theme verse).

Practical Advice for Study...

- See how the overall structure works leads geographically toward _____:
 - Introduction of the Son of Man (1-4:13)
 - The Son of Man in Galilee (4:14-9:50)
 - The Son of Man in Judea (9:51-13:21)
 - The Son of Man in Perea (13:22-19:27)
 - The Son of Man in Jerusalem (19:28-24:53)
- Notice the emphasis on the Gospel as “good news for the poor” and the need for followers of Christ to honor Christ with their money (3:10-14; 12:13- 21; 6:1-13; 16:19-31; 19:1-10).
- Make notes each time you see _____ and/or the Holy Spirit mentioned.

◆ **John**

Primary Information for Starters...

- Written...
 - By John, the “disciple whom Jesus loved.”
 - Sometime between 70-90 A.D.
 - To the _____.
- Primary theme: Jesus is the eternal “Son of God.”
- Key verses: 1:1-14; 3:16; 20:30-31 (theme verse).

Practical Advice for Study...

- Circle/underline key words that summarize the message of the Gospel: Father (137), _____ (98), world (78), send (60), love (57), life, light and darkness, truth, witness, glory, eternal.
- Note the seven “I AM” statements of Jesus.
 - Bread of Life (6:35, 41, 48, 51).
 - Light of the World (8:12; 9:5).
 - Door of the Sheep (10:7, 9).
 - Good Shepherd (10:11, 14).
 - Resurrection and the Life (11:25).
 - The Way, the Truth, and the Life (14:6).
 - The True Vine (15:1, 5).
- John highlights the Incarnation, using seven “_____” to demonstrate the deity of Christ.
 - Changing water to wine (2:1-11).
 - Healing the nobleman’s son (4:46-54).
 - Healing the paralytic (5:1-9).

- Feeding the 5000 (6:1-14).
- Calming the storm (6:16-21).
- Healing the blind man (9:1-7).
- Raising of Lazarus (11:38-45).
- Pay attention also, though, to John's depiction of the _____ of Christ.

Acts

Primary Information for Starters...

- Written by Luke as "Part Two" of His Gospel.
 - Luke – what Jesus "began" to do...
 - Acts – what Jesus "_____ " to do...
- Primary theme: The Gospel spreads _____ through the church in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Key verses: 1:8; 2:42-47.

Practical Advice for Study...

- See how the overall structure leads geographically _____
Jerusalem:
 - The Witness of the Church in Jerusalem (1-7)
 - The Witness of the Church in Judea and Samaria (8-9)
 - The Witness of the Church to the Ends of the Earth (10-28)
- Again, make notes every time you see prayer and/or the Holy Spirit mentioned.
- Notice the repetition of "salvation" (2:21; 2:47; 4:12; 5:31; 13:23; 13:26, 47; 16:31; 28:28) and the " _____ " regarding the advancement of the Gospel...
 - 6:7 – The Gospel in Jerusalem.
 - 9:31 – The Gospel in Judea and Samaria.
 - 12:24 – The Gospel in Syria.
 - 16:5 – The Gospel in Asia Minor.
 - 19:29 – The Gospel in Europe.
 - 28:31 – The Gospel in Rome.
- See in the different _____ of Acts how the Gospel is contextualized in different settings to reach different people.

THE LETTERS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT...

- _____ of the 27 books in the New Testament are letters – over 35% of the New Testament!
- Why letters?
 - The church is _____.
 - The church is _____.
- Two groups...
 - Pauline epistles (Romans – Philemon).
 - General epistles (Hebrews – Jude).

THE LIFE AND WRITINGS OF PAUL...

- Paul wrote _____ New Testament letters.
 - Ordered from longest to shortest.
 - Nine written to churches; four written to individuals.
- Paul the person...
 - Born Saul of Tarsus
 - Diverse background...
 - A _____ heritage.
 - A Greek education.
 - A _____ citizen.
 - Converted to Christ around 31-33 A.D.
- Paul the missionary...
 - First Missionary Journey (48-49)
 - Approximately 1400 miles.
 - Epistle: _____
 - Jerusalem Conference (49)
 - Second Missionary Journey (49-52)
 - Approximately 2800 miles.
 - Epistles: 1-2 _____
 - Third Missionary Journey (53-57)
 - Approximately 2700 miles.
 - Epistles: _____, 1-2 Corinthians
 - Prison in Caesarea by the Sea (58-60)
 - Trip to Rome (60-61)
 - First Imprisonment in Rome (61-63)
 - Epistles (called the _____ epistles): Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon.
 - Final Ministry and Final Imprisonment
 - Epistles (called the _____ epistles): 1-2 Timothy, Titus
- Paul the writer...
 - Salutation and Greeting
 - Thanksgiving and Blessing
 - Body
 - Exhortations and Requests
 - Closing

◆ Romans

Primary Information for Starters...

- Written to Jewish and Gentile Christians in Rome.
- Primary themes: The “righteousness of God” and the “_____” of God.”
- Threefold purpose:
 - To instruct the church in the basic doctrines of the Gospel.
 - To show the practical implications of the Gospel.
 - To garner support for expansion of the Gospel to _____ peoples.
- Key Verses: 1:16-17; 3:21-26; 8:28-39

Practical Advice for Study...

- Overall structure:
 - The _____ for Righteousness (1-3).
 - God’s Provision of Righteousness (3-8).
 - Israel’s Rejection of God’s Righteousness (9-11).
 - The Practice of Righteousness (12-16).
- Note the core Christian doctrines which fill this letter: revelation, depravity, justification, propitiation, faith, original sin, union with Christ, adoption, sanctification, glorification, the election of Israel, spiritual gifts, respect for government.
- Read it, study it, memorize it... this book is _____ to unlocking the entire Word of God.

◆ 1 Corinthians

Primary Information for Starters...

- Written to a _____ church in Corinth.
- Primary theme: the “_____ of the cross.”
- Key verses: 1:18-31; 2:14; 6:18-20; 10:12-13; 13:4-8.

Practical Advice for Study...

- Notice the letter’s bookends:
 - The cross (1:17-2:16).
 - The _____ (15:1-58).
- Notice how Paul develops a theology of the cross that affects Christian ethics, Christian priorities, and Christian attitudes.
- See how Paul addresses at least _____ different issues in the church, including the purpose of spiritual gifts, regulations for worship, and sexual immorality.

◆ 2 Corinthians

Primary Information for Starters...

- Written to a church amidst dissension in Corinth.
- Primary theme: _____ in the body of Christ.

- Four main elements in the letter:
 - Paul's explanation of his plans to visit Corinth.
 - Paul's collection for the church in Jerusalem.
 - Paul's _____ of apostleship and ministry.
 - Paul's concern about Jewish Christian opponents to the Gospel.
- Key Verses: 4:5-6, 16-18; 5:17-19; 8-9.

Practical Advice for Study...

- Overall structure:
 - Response of the church to Paul's ministry (1-7).
 - The church's giving (8-9).
 - Defense of Paul's ministry (10-13).
- Feel the _____ of Paul in this book – one of his most personal and intimate letters.
- Look for these dominant themes: forgiveness, restoration, Christian giving as an expression of generosity (not of obligation), suffering, and spiritual triumph.

◆ **Galatians**

Primary Information for Starters...

- Written in _____ to the Jerusalem Conference (Acts 15).
- Paul is countering Judaizers who are putting regulations on Gentiles to enter the church.
- Paul condemns the false Gospel of faith _____ works.
 - The false Gospel: Faith + Works = Justification.
 - The true Gospel: Faith = Justification + Works
- Key Verses: 2:20-21; 5:1; 5:13-16; 6:14.

Practical Advice for Study...

- Overall structure:
 - Grace and the Gospel (1-2).
 - Grace and the Law (3-4).
 - Grace and the Spirit (5-6).
- Circle/underline key words: law (32), flesh (16), works (7), circumcision (13), Christ (38), the Spirit (17), faith/believe (26), grace (8); justify (8); Abraham (9), promise (10), son/seed (18); freedom (10), slavery (11), Gentiles (10).
- Note the danger of legalism and the joy of _____ in Christ.

◆ **Ephesians**

Primary Information for Starters...

- Written from prison to church leaders in Ephesus and surrounding areas.
- Three major themes:
 - The _____ of the church.
 - The _____ of Christ.
 - The power of the Spirit.
- Key Verses: 1:3-14; 2:8-10; 4:11-13; 6:10-20

Practical Advice for Study...

- Overall structure:
 - The Doctrine of the Church (1-3)
 - The Practice of the Church (4-6)
- Mark each time you see “love” (agape) mentioned.
- Mark each time you see the phrase “_____ Christ” or “with Christ” – 35 times!

◆ **Philippians**

Primary Information for Starters...

- Written from prison to the church at Philippi (a Roman colony).
- Delivered by Epaphroditus – “God’s _____.”
- Primary themes: joy and unity in Christ.
- Key Verses: 1:21; 2:5-11; 3:8-11; 4:9-13.

Practical Advice for Study...

- Overall structure:
 - Christ is our life (1).
 - Christ is our example (2).
 - Christ is our goal (3).
 - Christ is our strength (4).
- Note the “Christ hymn” of 2:5-11.
 - Jesus is _____.
 - Jesus is man.
 - Jesus is Savior.
 - Jesus is _____.
- Enjoy Philippians – it’s a breath of fresh air in Paul’s letters!
- Listen for the heart of a disciple-maker, writing from the persecuted to the persecuted.

◆ **Colossians**

Primary Information for Starters...

- Written to a church Epaphras had founded and Paul had _____ visited.
- Paul is countering Gnostics in Colosse who were denying the deity of Christ.
- Primary theme: The _____ of Christ - “Christ is all and in all” (3:11) and we are “made full in Him” (2:10).
- Key Verses: 1:15-20; 2:8-10; 3:1-3.

Practical Advice for Study...

- See a portrait of Christ in Colossians:
 - The _____ of all things (1:18; 2:10).
 - The Lord of creation (1:16-17).
 - The Author of reconciliation (1:20-22; 2:13-15).

- The basis for the believer's hope (1:5, 23, 27).
- The source of the believer's power (1:11, 29).
- Redeemer and Reconciler (1:14, 20-22; 2:11-15).
- The embodiment of God (1:15, 19; 2:9).
- The _____ and Sustainer of all things (1:16-17).
- The all-sufficient Savior (1:28; 2:3, 20; 3:1-4).
- As you read, mark these key words: all, fullness, filled, supremacy, sufficiency.
- Notice the _____ implications of a life that is sustained by Christ alone.

◆ 1 Thessalonians

Primary Information for Starters...

- Written from Corinth to a young church in Thessalonica.
- Paul's fourfold purpose:
 - To encourage _____ believers.
 - To answer charges against Paul.
 - To explain the _____ of Christ.
 - To warn against idleness.
- Key verses: 1:4-10; 4:1-3; 4:13-18

Practical Advice for Study...

- Overall structure (based on 1:3):
 - Work Produced by Faith (1-3).
 - Labor Prompted by Love (4:1-12).
 - Endurance Inspired by Hope (4:13-5:28).
- Note how every chapter ends with a reference to the coming of Christ.
 - The coming of Christ and salvation (1:9-10).
 - The coming of Christ and service (2:19-20).
 - The coming of Christ and stability (3:13).
 - The coming of Christ and sorrow (4:18).
 - The coming of Christ and sanctification (5:23).
- See full-circle disciple-making described in 1 Thessalonians!
 - Share the Word (1:4-5).
 - Show the Word (1:5-6).
 - Teach the Word (1:6).
 - Serve the World (1:7-10).
 - The Joy of Disciple-Making (2:19-20).
- Pay close attention to how Paul emphasizes "sanctification" (4:3, 4, 7) and "the coming of the Lord" (1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:15; 5:23).
- Notice the centrality of the _____ (1:5, 6, 8; 2:2, 4, 8, 9, 13).

◆ 2 Thessalonians

Primary Information for Starters...

- Written as a follow-up letter to Thessalonica.
- Paul's threefold purpose:
 - To encourage believers who were facing increasing persecution.

- To exhort those who were idle to work for the glory of Christ until He comes back!
- To edify the believers in their pursuit of _____.
- Key verses: 2:1-4; 3:1-5, 16.

Practical Advice for Study...

- Note how 18 out of 47 verses deal with the “_____ of the Lord.”
- Pay close attention to these key words: judgment, retribution, destruction.
- Let this book remind you to live with the expectation that “it might be today.”

◆ **1 Timothy**

Primary Information for Starters...

- Written to encourage _____ Timothy as he leads the “big city church” in Ephesus.
- Primary theme: God desires for _____ leaders to lead His church.
- Key verses: 3:14-16; 4:12; 6:11-12.

Practical Advice for Study...

- Overall structure:
 - Guard the doctrine of the church (1).
 - Guard the worship of the church (2).
 - Guard the leadership of the church (3).
 - Guard the purity of the church (4).
 - Guard the practice of the church (5-6).
- Pay close attention to these key words: _____, commandment (1:3, 5, 18; 4:11; 5:7; 6:13, 17); sound doctrine (1:10; 4:6; 6:1-3); conduct, godliness (2:2, 10:3-16; 4:7, 8; 6:3, 5, 6, 11).
- Put yourself in Timothy’s shoes as you read this letter

◆ **2 Timothy**

Primary Information for Starters...

- Paul writes this letter – likely his last – while awaiting his trial and death.
- Paul demonstrates _____ a Christian martyr should face death.
- Key verses: 1:7; 2:1-4; 3:14-4:5

Practical Advice for Study...

- Overall structure:
 - The Pastoral Appeal (1)
 - The Practical Appeal (2)
 - The Prophetic Appeal (3)
 - The Personal Appeal (4).
- See the picture of a successful ministry in Chapter 2:
 - A _____ ministry (1-2).
 - An enduring ministry (3-13).
 - A studying ministry (14-18).

- A holy ministry (19-16).
- Feel the weight of Paul’s concern for Timothy.
- Feel the weight of Paul’s concern for the _____.
- 1 Timothy – “some have turned aside” (1:6); “some have made shipwreck” (1:19); “some have turned aside after Satan” (5:15); “some have been led astray” (6:10); “some have erred” (6:21).
- 2 Timothy – “_____ have turned away from me” (1:15); “_____ forsook me” (4:16).

◆ Titus

Primary Information for Starters...

- Written to Titus, a leader of the church in Crete who had been led to Christ by Paul (2 Cor. 8:23).
- Fourfold purpose:
 - To remind Titus to appoint elders in the church.
 - To warn Titus against false teachers in the church.
 - To _____ Titus how to lead different types of people in the church.
 - To encourage Titus regarding the importance of grace in the church.
- Primary theme: _____ leads to godliness (1:4; 2:11ff.; 3:7, 15).
- Key verses: 2:11-14; 3:3-8

Practical Advice for Study...

- Overall Structure:
 - Organizing the Church (1).
 - Following Christ (2-3).
- Note the major emphasis on good works (1:16; 2:7, 14; 3:1, 5, 8, 14) and faith (1:1, 4, 13; 2:10, 13; 3:15).

◆ Philemon

Primary Information for Starters...

- Written...
 - To Philemon, a Christian in Colosse who had come to faith in Christ through Paul.
 - About Onesimus, a _____ of Philemon who had come to faith in Christ through Paul.
- Paul writes to...
 - Inform Philemon of Onesimus’ salvation.
 - Ask Philemon to _____ him.
 - Request to visit Philemon.
- Key verses: 15-18

Practical Advice for Study...

- See the picture of Christ as the Redeemer of lost sinners.
- See the effect of the Gospel on _____.
- See how Christ transforms our relationships.

THE GENERAL LETTERS...

- Nine letters not written by Paul.
- Ordered (again) basically by length.
- Titled according to the _____ of their authors.
 - James, Peter, John, Jude, and the author of Hebrews.
- Written to more general _____.

◆ Hebrews

Primary Information for Starters...

- Who wrote Hebrews?
 - _____!
- Most likely written to Jewish Christians facing persecution.
- Primary theme: the _____ of Jesus Christ.
- Message of Hebrews revolves around five exhortations (13:22 – a word of exhortation):
 - Let us not drift from the Word (2:1-4).
 - Let us not doubt the Word (3:7-4:13).
 - Let us not grow dull toward the Word (5:11-6:20).
 - Let us not despise the Word (10:26-39).
 - Let us not disobey the Word (12:14-19).

Practical Advice for Study...

- Overall structure:
 - A Superior Person: Christ (1-6)
 - A Superior Priesthood (7-10)
 - A Superior Principle: Faith (11-13)
- See how these key words point to the supremacy of Christ:
 - _____ (1:4; 6:9; 7:7, 19, 22; 8:6; 9:23; 10:34; 11:16, 35, 40; 12:24).
 - _____ (2:10; 5:9, 14; 6:1; 7:11, 19, 28; 9:9, 11; 10:1, 14; 11:40; 12:2, 23).
- See and study the _____ everywhere in Hebrews!
 - Psalm 8:4-6 in 2:5-18.
 - Psalm 95:7-11 in 3:7-4:13.
 - Psalm 110:4 in 4:16-7:28.
 - Jeremiah 31:31-34 in 8:1-10:18
 - Habakkuk 2:3-4 in 10:32-12:3
 - Proverbs 3:11-12 in 12:4-13
 - Exodus 19 in 12:18-29
- Things to remember...
 - The author is quoting from the _____ Old Testament.
 - The author argues many times from the lesser to the greater.
 - The author views everything in the Old Testament through the lens of _____.

◆ James

Primary Information for Starters...

- Likely written by James, the brother of Jesus.
- Written to address the practical implications of true faith – what does Christianity look like in _____?
- Key verses: 1:2-5; 2:14-17.

Practical Advice for Study...

- Overall structure:
 - Stand with confidence (1).
 - Serve with compassion (2).
 - Speak with care (3).
 - Submit with contrition (4).
 - Share with concern (5).
- See the Old Testament all over James – in 108 verses, there are references or allusions to 22 OT books and at least 15 references or allusions to the teachings of Christ.
- Note the emphasis on _____ (1:9-11, 27; 2:1-13; 4:13-5:6).
- Compare this book with Romans...
 - Paul addresses our standing before God.
 - James addresses our _____ before the world.

◆ 1 Peter

Primary Information for Starters...

- Written to the church in Asia Minor – modern day _____ – facing increasing suffering and persecution.
- Major theme is the sufficiency of God's _____, which is used in every chapter (1:2, 10, 13, 2:19-20; 3:7; 4:10; 5:5, 10, 12).
- Key verses: 1:3-7; 3:15-17; 4:12-13.

Practical Advice for Study...

- Overall structure:
 - A call to _____ living (1:13-2:10).
 - Living for the sake of a pagan world (2:11-4:11).
 - Walking through suffering as the church (4:12-5:11).
- Read and compare with Ephesians.
 - 1 Peter 1:12; Ephesians 3:5, 10.
 - 1 Peter 2:2; Ephesians 4:13, 15.
 - 1 Peter 4:10; Ephesians 4:7, 11.
 - 1 Peter 4:11; Ephesians 3:6, 21.
- Pay close attention to these key words: suffering (16 times); behavior/way of life (six times); God (39 times); Christ (22 times); Spirit (8 times); God's will (4 times); election/calling (10 times); salvation (6 times); hope (5 times).

- Learn how to live out the Christian life in the middle of _____ and persecution.

◆ 2 Peter

Primary Information for Starters...

- Peter is most likely awaiting execution as he writes this letter.
- Primary theme: growth in grace and _____.
- Key verses: 1:20-21; 3:8-11.
- Compare with themes of 1 Peter regarding the church:
 - Satan can come as a lion to devour with persecution (1 Peter).
 - Satan can come as a serpent to _____ with false doctrine (2 Peter).

Practical Advice for Study...

- Overall structure:
 - Grow in His grace (1:1-11).
 - Look forward to His coming (1:12-21).
 - Trust in His judgment (2).
 - Cling to His Word (3).
- Compare with 2 Timothy to see two perspectives on facing martyrdom.
- Note the explanation of the Bible's _____ in 2 Peter 1:19-21.

◆ 1 John

Primary Information for Starters...

- John states five purposes:
 - That we might have fellowship (1:3).
 - That we might have joy (1:4).
 - That we might not sin (2:1-2).
 - That we might overcome error (2:26).
 - That we might have assurance (5:13).
- Primary themes:
 - God is _____ (1:5).
 - God is love (4:8, 16).
 - God is _____ (1:1-2; 5:11-13).
- Key verses: 1:5-2:2; 5:11-13.

Practical Advice for Study...

- See how John uses _____ foundational words over and over again: love (46 times), know (40 times), sin (27 times), abide/remain (24 times), world (23 times), life (13 times).
- As you read, see 1 John more in terms of a musical arrangement than a well-ordered argument.

◆ 2 John

Primary Information for Starters...

- Written to either one local church or an esteemed woman in a local church.
- The church must...
 - Guard the doctrine of the Incarnation.
 - _____ false teachers.
- Key verses: 6-11.

Practical Advice for Study...

- Overall structure:
 - Practicing the truth (1-6).
 - Protecting the truth (7-11).
- Look for words that are repeated over and over again: _____ (14), truth (9), walk, love, teaching, deceivers.

◆ 3 John

Primary Information for Starters...

- _____ book in the Bible.
- Four characters involved...
 - John, who wrote it.
 - Gaius, who received it.
 - Diotrephes, who caused it.
 - Demetrius, who carried it.
- Primary theme: _____ in the church.

Practical Advice for Study...

- Overall structure:
 - Gaius – A prosperous Christian (1-8).
 - Diotrephes: A _____ Christian (9-10).
 - Demetrius: A pleasant Christian (11-12).

◆ Jude

Primary Information for Starters...

- Written by Judas, the brother of Jesus.
- Primary theme: “_____ for the faith” (3).
- Twofold purpose:
 - To condemn the practices of the ungodly in the church.
 - To counsel believers to hold fast and contend for the faith.
- Key verses: 3, 24.

Practical Advice for Study...

- See the condemnation of false teachers based on seven Old Testament examples:
 - Israel (5)
 - Fallen angels (6)

- Sodom and Gomorrah (7)
- Michael and Moses (8-10)
- Cain (11)
- Balaam (11)
- Korah (11)
- Jude emphasizes the power of Christ to _____ His church to the end.

REVELATION

- What genre is it?
 - Apocalyptic literature (1:1).
 - _____ (1:3).
 - Epistle (1:4).
- This book has no _____.

◆ Revelation

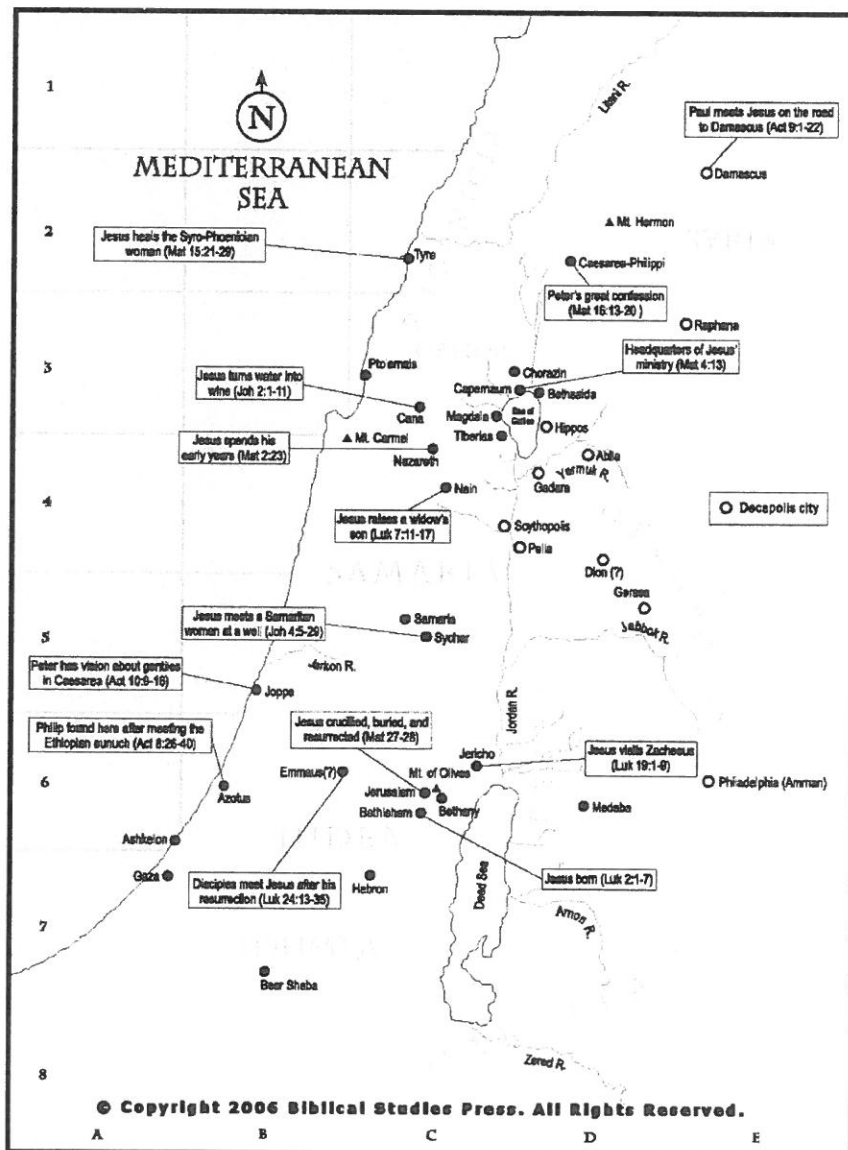
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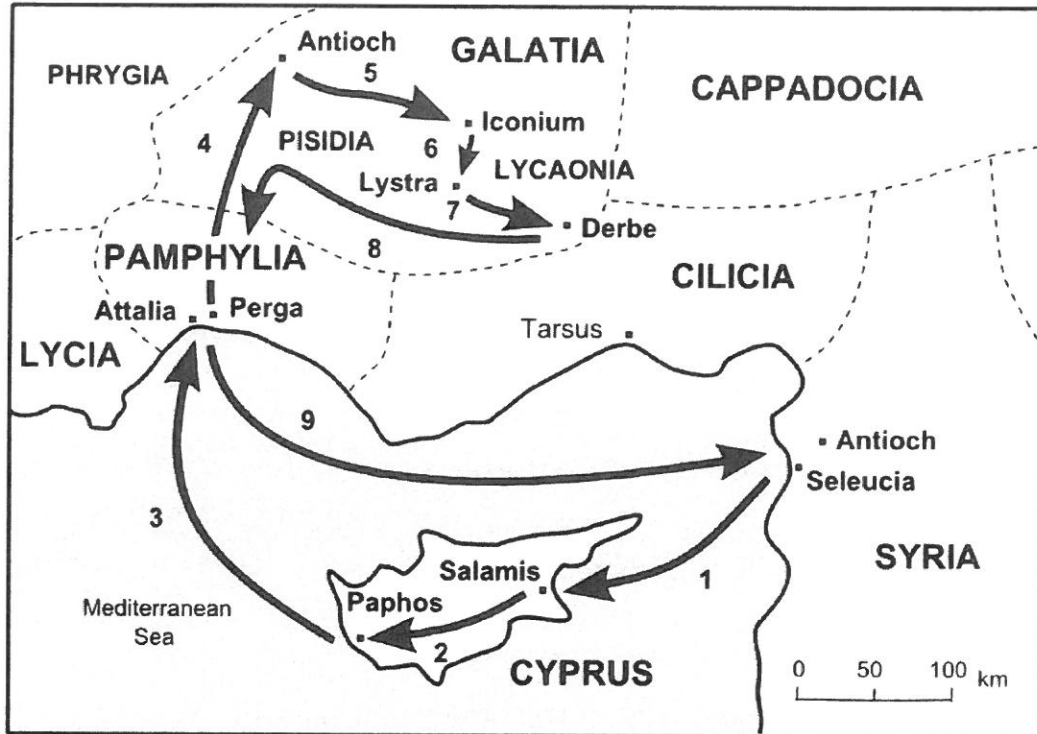
- Written...
 - By John when he was exiled on Patmos.
 - To Christians facing persecution in the first century.
 - About the _____ and the future of God's kingdom.
- Primary theme is the revelation of _____.
- Key chapters: 1-5; 19-22.

Practical Advice for Study...

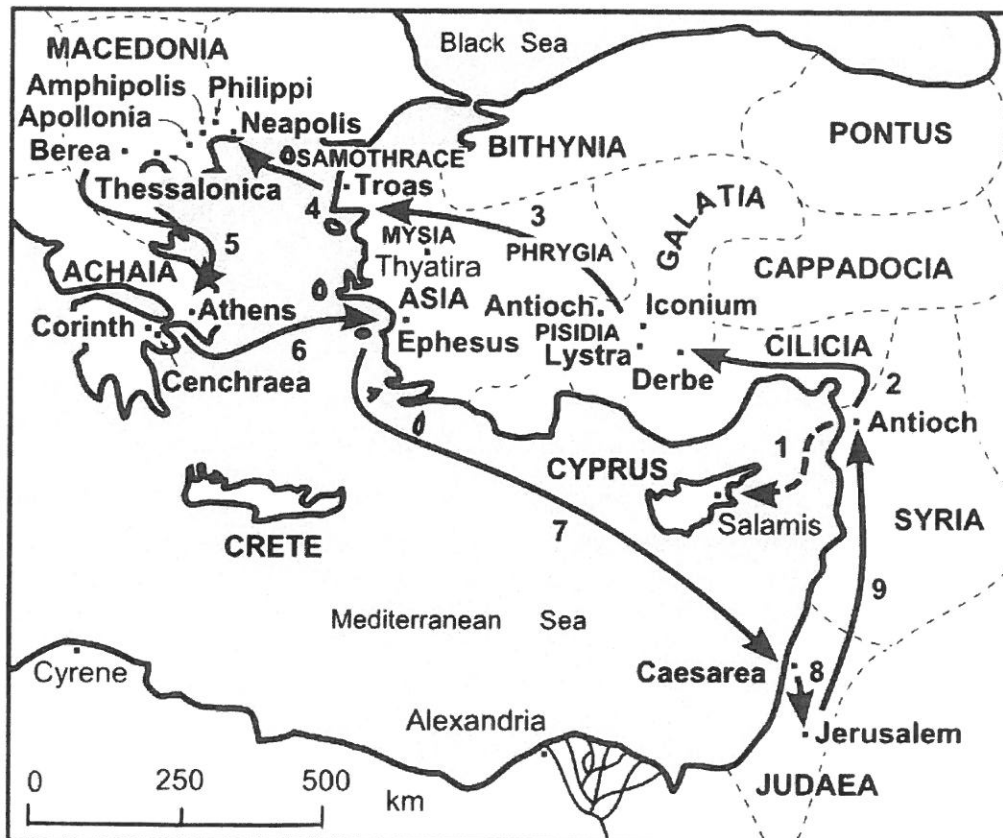
- Look for the Old Testament throughout Revelation...
 - _____ out of 404 verses contain references to the Old Testament!
 - Most often referring to the Psalms, Daniel, Zechariah, Genesis, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Joel.
- See how Genesis and Revelation serve as _____ of the Bible.
 - Creation of the heavens and earth (Gen. 1-2)
 - Creation of the new heavens and earth (Gen. 21-22).
 - The first Adam reigning on earth (1:26).
 - The last Adam reigning in glory (21:5).
 - Night and seas created (1:5, 10).
 - No more night; no more sea (21:1, 25).
 - A bride brought to Adam (2:18-25).
 - The Bride prepared for Christ (19:7ff.)
 - A tree of life in Eden (2:9; 3:22).
 - A tree of life in the new creation (22:2).
 - Satan utters the first lie (3:1).
 - Nothing that makes a lie enters the city (21:27).
 - Death and a curse (3:14, 17-19).
 - No more curse; no more death or tears (22:3).

- Conflict between Christ and Satan (3:15).
 - Satan's final doom (20:10).
- Man driven from God's face (3:23; 4:16).
 - Men see His face in glory (22:4).
- Help in understanding the apocalyptic imagery...
 - Remember that the imagery is _____.
 - John interprets the most important images.
 - Pay attention to the _____ images throughout the book.
 - See the visions as a _____, not always pressing every detail.
- See the _____ of God in Christ all over Revelation!
 - Throne is used 44 times.
 - King, kingdom, or rule about 37 times.
 - Power and authority about 40 times

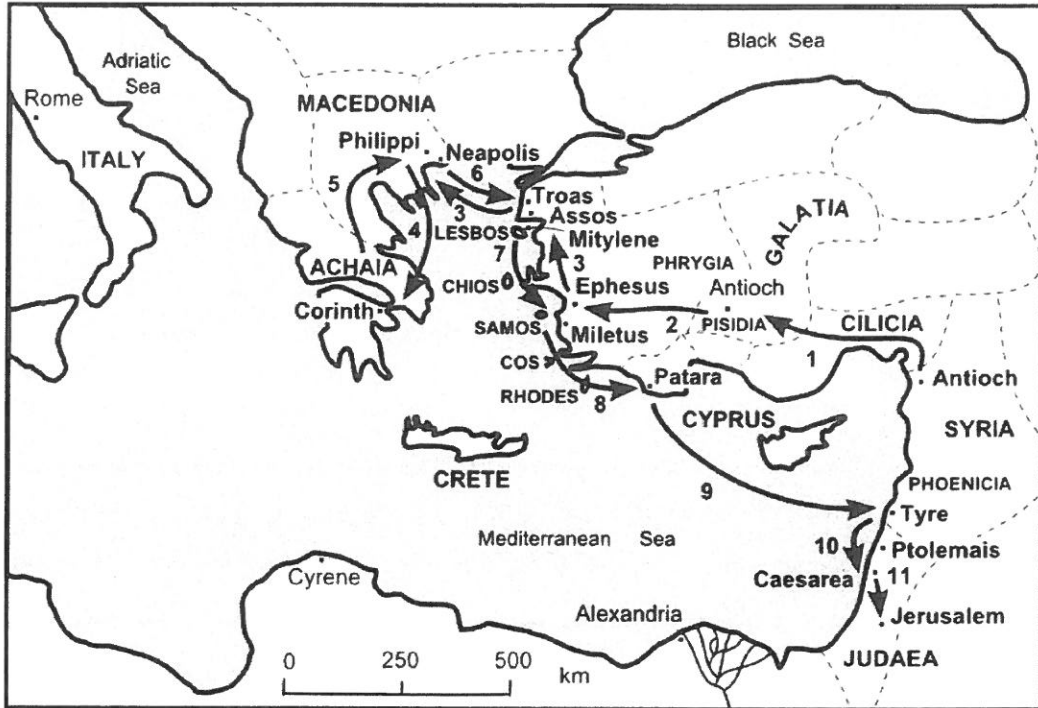




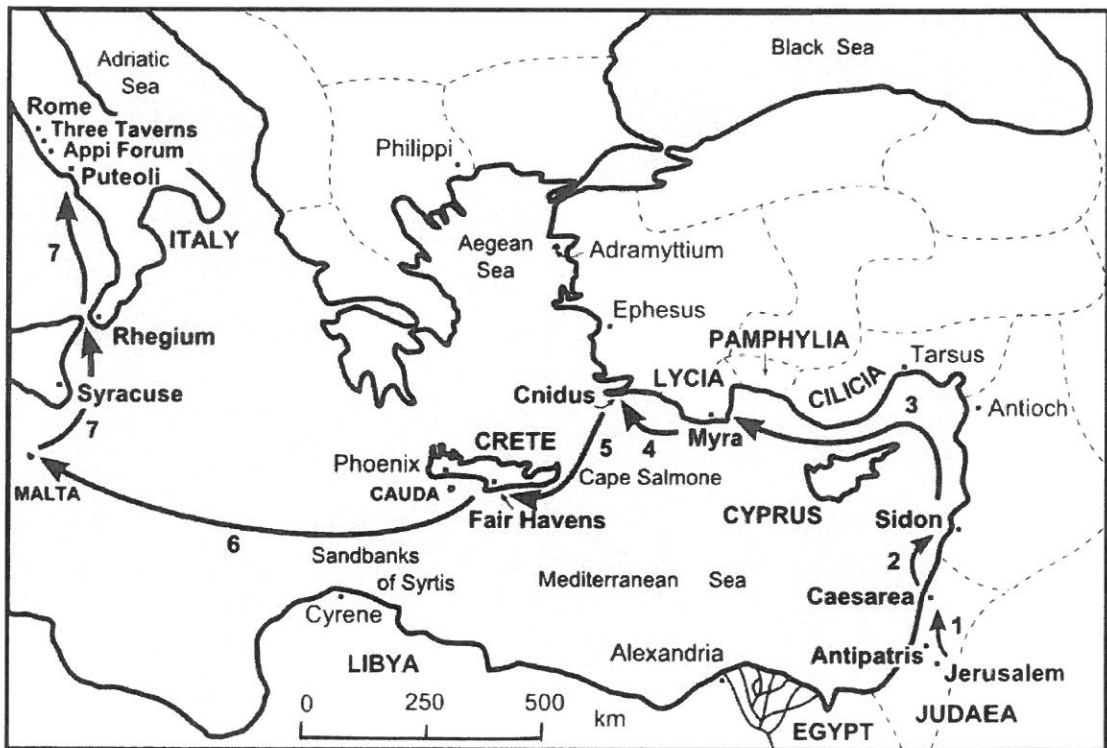
Paul's First Missionary Journey



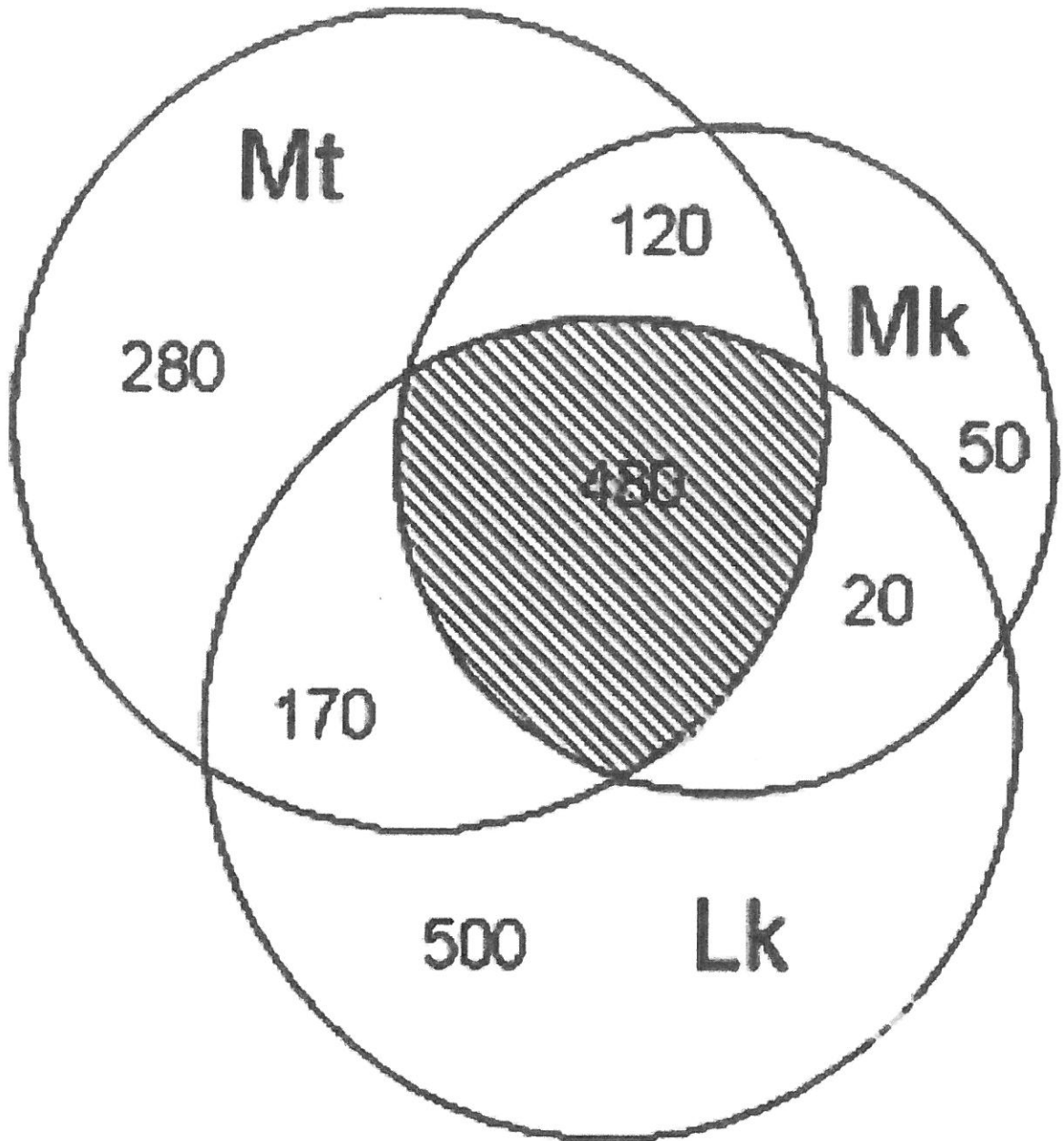
Paul's Second Missionary Journey



Paul's Third Missionary Journey



Paul's Journey to Rome



**Synoptic Gospels
Verses in Common and Unique**