

Important chapters

from every book of the Bible

OT

The Law + early history:

Gen 1-3 • 12 • 37
Ex 3-4 • 12 • 20
Leviticus 19
Numbers 11
Deut 4 • 6 • 8 • 30

History:

Joshua 1 • 24
Judges 6-7
Ruth 1
1 Sam 3 • 16 • 24
2 Sam 7 • 11-12
1 Kings 8 • 12 • 18f
2 Kings 5 - 6
17 • 25
1 Chron 29
2 Chron 20
Ezra 9
Nehemiah 1-2
Esther 3

NT

Wisdom:

Job 1f • 19 • 42
Psalms 1 • 19 • 23
40 • 51 • 103 •
139 • 145
Prov 3 • 11 • 28
Eccl 3 • 12
Song of Songs 2

Prophecy:

Isaiah 6 • 43 • 53
55 • 58 • 61
Jer 1 • 7 • 17 • 31
Lam 3 • Ezek 2-
3 • 34 • 36 • 37
Daniel 1 • 6 • 9
Hos 6 • Joel 3
Am 5 • Ob • Jon 2
Mic 6 • Nahum 1
Hab 1:12 - 2:4
Zeph 1:14 - 2:3
Hagg 1 • Zech 2
Malachi 3

The life and teaching of Jesus:

Luke 2 • John 1
Mark 1 • Luke 6
Mat 6 • John 3
Mat 10 • Luke 12
John 10 • Mat 16
John 14 - 15
Mat 24 • Mark 14
Luke 23 • Mat 28

The first Christians:

Acts 1 • 2 • 9 •
17 • 26

Paul's letters:

Rom 1 • 3 • 8 • 12
1 Cor 1 • 13 • 15
2 Cor 1 • 4 • 5
Gal 5 • Eph 2
Phil 3 • Col 1
1 Thess 5
2 Thess 3
1 Tim 1 • 2 Tim 3
Titus 3 • Philemon

Other letters:

Hebrews 11 • 12
James 4
1 Pet 2 • 2 Pet 3
1 John 4 • Jude

Visions of the future:

Revelation 1 • 3
5 • 22

On dark days

Nobody cares Ps 142
How long, O Lord? Ps 137
Hear my cry, O Lord! Ps 102
Sometimes I'd like to die ... Job 3
... but there *is* hope Lam 3:21-26
You know me, Lord Ps 139

Share the gospel

Read the Bible verses and questions together with a friend who hasn't yet understood the gospel and received Jesus as Saviour and Lord. Talk together about the answers.

Rom 3:23 Who has sinned?
Isaiah 59:2 What has sin done in your life?
Hebr 9:27 What will happen when you die?
Eph 2:8-9 What will *not* help you to be saved?
Rom 5:8 What has Christ done for us?
John 1:12 What must we do to become part of God's family?
Rev 3:20 Where is Jesus now? What is he doing? What must *you* do? Will you do it?
John 5:24 What happens when you hear
and

God's Word

Living and sharp Hebr 4:12-13
Inspiration & purpose 2 Tim 3:14-17
Eye witnesses Luk 1:1ff • 1 Jn 1:1-4
The Word is truth John 17:17-19
Do what it says! James 1:22-25
Gives joy to the heart Psa 19:7-11
The Spirit's role 1 Cor 2:9-14
Invented stories? 2 Pet 1:16-21
The Word became flesh Jn 1:1-5,14
Jesus and Scripture John 5:39-47
Passion for the Word Psalm 119

Good reasons

for sharing the gospel with others

- God commands it:
Mat 28:18-20 ⇐ Acts 1:8
- Jesus is the only way to God: John 14:6 ⇐ Acts 4:12
- Hell / perdition is a reality:
Mat 7:13f ⇐ 2 Thess 1:8-9
- People's deepest need is to be reconciled to God:
2 Cor 5:18-20 ⇐ Col 1,21f
- We cannot keep silent about what we have experienced:
Acts 4:20 ⇐ 2 Cor 5:14-15
- God rejoices and is honoured when someone is saved: Luke 15:7,10,21ff

God's most exciting project: The gospel to all nations

Mat 24:14 • 28:18ff • Mark 16:15
Luk 24:46f • Rom 10:12-15
Acts 1:8 • 13:47 • 26:16-18
Psalms 67 • 96 • Rom 15:8-13
Rev 7:9-10 • 1 Chron 16:23-31

'... with all your heart'

- Love.... Mat 22:37 • Deut 6:5
- Seek.... Jer 29:13 • Ps 119:2
- Serve... Rom 1:9 • Joshua 22:5
- Praise... Psalm 9:1 • 86:12
- Obey.... Psalm 119:34
- Trust..... Proverbs 3:5
- Rejoice... Zephaniah 3:14
- Return.... Joel 2:12 • Jer 24:7
- Call on God... Psalm 119:145
- Be true to the Lord... Acts

Money

New perspective 1 Tim 6:6-10,17ff
Whom do I serve? Mat 6:19-24
Joy of giving 2 Cor 9:6-9
Neither ... nor ... Prov 30:8-9
Do not forget! Deut 8:11-20
Equality 2 Cor 8:13-15
Never enough? Eccl 5:9,14
Content & confident Hebr 13:5-6
'I am rich' Rev 3:17-20
Wise stewardship Luke 16:9-13
Sex & Greed Eph 5:5-6
Honour the Lord Prov 3:9-10
Being a fool Luke 12:13-21
Tithing Malachi 3:8-

Time Line

Adam and Eve
Noah
Tower of Babel
.....
c.2000 Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
B.C.
c.1850 Joseph
- Slaves in Egypt
c.1520 Moses is born
c.1440 Exodus from Egypt
- Joshua
- Samuel
1000 David king
- Solomon
930 Divided kingdom:
B.C. - Israel in North,
- Judah in South
- First prophets
722 Fall of Israel
587 Fall of Judah, the
B.C. people deported to Babylon
538 Back from exile in Babylon
520 The temple and
445 Jerusalem's walls are rebuilt
B.C.
c. 5 Jesus is born
B.C.
30 Jesus' death and resurrection
A.D.
c. 68 Paul's death
70 Jerusalem is destroyed by the Romans

Sexuality

Created for each other Mat 19:4-6
The Bible's love poem Song of Songs
Driven by lust ... 2 Sam 11-12
... or by love 1 Cor 13:4-7
Do not be fooled! Prov 5 and 7
An example to follow Gen 39

Sexual immorality (Fornication):

The Greek word is 'porneia'. It means "sexual relations before and outside marriage". The New Testament warns against sexual immorality more than 30 times.

Here are some of the verses:

1 Thess 4:3-8 • 1 Cor 6:15-20 & 7:8f
Hebr 13:4 • Col 3:5f • Mat 15:19

Homosexuality: Lev 18:22

1 Cor 6:9-11 • Rom 1:26-27
(See also Mat 19:4-6 & 19:10-12)

Pray Bible texts

Choose 3-4 verses and take one phrase at a time: Praise God, confess sins, give thanks, pray for yourself and others on the basis of words and expressions in the verses.

Where do I find ...?

The Ten Commandments Exod 20:1-17
The Priestly Blessing Num 6:24-26
'The Lord is my shepherd' Psalm 23
The Psalm of repentance Psalm 51
The Suffering Servant Isaiah 53
The Sermon on the Mount Mat 5 - 7
The Beatitudes Mat 5:1-12
Our Lord's Prayer Mat 6:9-13
The Golden Rule Mat 7:12
The Great Commission Mat 28:18-20
The Greatest Commandment Mark 12:29-31
The Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37
The Lost (Prodigal) Son Luke 15:11-32
The Bible in a nutshell John 3:16
Jesus is the Good Shepherd John 10:1-16
Spiritual Gifts 1 Cor 12 - 14
The Song of Love 1 Cor 13
The Resurrection Chapter 1 Cor 15
The Fruit of the Spirit Gal 5:22-23
The full armour of God Eph 6:10-18
Heroes of Faith Hebr 11

Prophecies about Jesus

	Prophecy	Fulfilment
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:1	Mat 2:1-6 • Luke 2:4
Mighty and everlasting	Isaiah 9:6-7	Luke 1:31-33
Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18-23
From the tribe of Judah	Genesis 49:10	Revelation 5:5
Herod's child murders	Jeremiah 31:15	Matthew 2:16-18
Escape to Egypt	Hosea 11:1	Matthew 2:15
Cleansing of the temple	Psalm 69:9	John 2:13-17
Entry into Jerusalem	Zechariah 9:9	Matthew 21:1-11
Thirty silver coins	Zechariah 11:12-13	Mat 26:15 • 27:3-10
Silent before accusers	Isaiah 53:7	Mat 26:62f • 27:12-14
Praying for enemies	Isaiah 53:12	Luke 23:34
Casting lots for clothing	Psalm 22:18	Matthew 27:35
In a rich man's tomb	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60
Suffered and died	Isaiah 53:4-12	Mat 8:17 • Rom 4:25

for our sins 1 Cor 15:3 • 2 Cor 5:21
1 Pet 2:22-24 and 3:18

Other prophecies (see cross-references in the Bible for each verse):

Deuteronomy 18:15,18 • Isaiah 11:1-5 • 42:1-4 • 50:6 • 61:1f
Jeremiah 23:5f • Zechariah 12:10 • Daniel 7:13f

Bible Guide

What can I read when I am . . .

- **tired?** Mat 11:28-30
Psalms 23:1-3 • Isa 40:28ff
- **afraid?** Isa 41:10,13 • Ps 56:3-4
118:5-9 • Jn 14:1,27 • 16:33
- **tempted to gossip?** Mat 7:12
James 3:2-12 • 2 Cor 12:20
- **rejected because of my faith?**
Mat 5:10-12 • Jes 51:7f • 1 Pet
4:12f • 2 Tim 3:12 • Acts 5:41
- **worried?** Phil 4:6f • 1 Pet 5:7
Luke 12:22-31 • Isa 43:1-5,10-13
- **lonely?** Psa 25:16 • 27:7-10
Isa 41:10 • 49:15f • Deut 31:8
- **tempted?** 1 Cor 10:13 • Heb 2:18
James 1:12-16 • Mark 14:38
- **making important choices?**
Mat 6:33 • Joshua 24:14-15
Psa 37:5 • Jer 17:7-10
- **weak?** 1 Cor 1:26-31
2 Cor 12:9f • Psa 138:3-8
- **in need of wisdom?** James 1:5f
Prov 2:1-8 • 9:10 • Eph 1:17f
- **discouraged?** Lam 3:19-26
Jn 14:27 • Psa 34:19 • Rom 8:31ff
Eph 3:16-21 • 2 Thess 2:16f
- **lacking assurance of salvation?** Jn 5:24 • 6:47
1 Jn 5:11-13 • Rom 10:9-10
- **happy?** Psalms 33 • 145 • 150
- **afraid of death?** Psa 23:4
John 11:25f • 14:1ff
- Rom 8:35-39 • 14:8
- **needing forgiveness?** 1 Jn 1:9
Isa 1:18 • Psa 32 • 51 • 130
- **bored?** Prov 11:25 • Eccl 3:1-8
Mat 7:12 • Rom 12:2
- **feeling let down?** Isa 49:14-16
Psa 27:7-14 • 118:5-8 • 9:10
- **in need of peace?** Phil 4:6f
Jn 14:27 • 16:33 • Psa 85:8
Lam 3:21-26 • Num 6:24ff
- **feeling God is distant?**
Deut 4:7 • Isa 57:15
James 4:8 • Lam 3:57
Psa 145:18 • 139:1-18
- **doubting?** Jn 20:24-29 • Mark
9:23f • Mat 11:2-6 • 2 Cor 4:18 &
5:7 • Isa 45:9-12 • Deut 29:29
- **in danger?** Psa 91 • 118:5-9
18:2f • 121:5-8 • Rom 8:35-39
- **envious?** Psa 37:1-7 • Prov
14:30 • Gal 5:25f • 1 Pet 2:1-3
James 3:13-18 • Mark 7:21f
- **sick and powerless?** Psa 6
13 • 42 • 86 • 2 Cor 12:9f
- **uncertain about God's will?**
Micah 6:8 • Psa 25:4-14
Prov 3:5-12 • Jer 29:11-13

By trusting in Jesus I am ...

- A child of God 1 Jn 3:1f
- Saved by grace Eph 2:8-9
- Secure in his love Rom 8:35ff
- Justified Rom 5:9
- Forgiven Eph 1:7
- Citizen of heaven Phil 3:20
- Branch of his vine John 15:5
- Temple of God 1 Cor 3:16
- God's heir Rom 8:17
- God's property Rom 14:8
- A new creation 2 Cor 5:17
- Salt and light Mat 5:13f
- Having life 1 Jn 5:12f
- At peace with God Rom 5:1
- Truly free Jn 8:31f,36
- Precious for God's sake Isa 43:4
- His witness Acts 1:8

Occultism and New Age

- Occult rituals Deut 18:10-14
- Astrology Deut 4:19-20
- Horoscopes Isaiah 47:10-15
- 'Table of demons' 1 Cor 10:21-22
- Counterfeit miracles 2 Thes 2:9-12
- Burn them! Acts 19:18-20
- Spiritual warfare Eph 6:10-18
- Test the spirits 1 John 4:1-6
- Consult the Word! Isaiah 8:19ff
- Power of Jesus Luke 10:17-22
- Fullness in Christ Col 2:8-10
- Other gods? Isa 43:10-13 • 44:6-8

Well-known

Parables of Jesus

Matthew

- 5:13-16 Salt and light
- 7:24-27 Two house builders
- 13:1-9,18-23 Sower and soils
- 13:24-30,36-43 Weeds
- 13:31-32 Mustard seed
- 13:33-35 Yeast
- 13:44-46 Treasure and Pearl
- 13:47-50 Net
- 18:23-35 Unmerciful servant
- 20:1-16 Workers in vineyard
- 21:28-32 Two sons
- 21:33-44 Tenants
- 22:1-14 Wedding banquet
- 25:1-13 Ten virgins
- 25:14-30 Talents
- 25:31-46 Sheep and goats
(Last judgment)

Luke

- 7:41-43 Money-lender
- 10:25-37 Good Samaritan
- 12:16-21 Rich fool
- 14:15-24 Great banquet
- 14:28-33 Cost of discipleship
- 15:1-7 Lost sheep
- 15:8-10 Lost coin
- 15:11-32 Lost (prodigal) son
- 16:1-13 Shrewd manager
- 16:19-31 Rich man and Lazarus
- 18:1-8 Persistent widow
- 18:9-14 Pharisee and tax collector

John

- 10:1-16 Good shepherd
- 15:1-8 Vine and

Bible meditation

Try this simple and effective method: Choose a Bible verse, emphasise one word at a time, and reflect on the meanings that you discover. Example:

Seek first his kingdom
Seek **first** his kingdom
Seek first **his** kingdom
Seek first his **kingdom**
..... etc

Explanation

of abbreviations in this leaflet

- 7:3f = v. 3 + following verse
- 7:3ff = v. 3 + several verses
- 19A = first half of chapter 19
- 19B = second half of chapter 19

- Psa (or Ps) = Psalms
- Isa (or Is) = Isaiah
- Lam = Lamentations
- Mat = Matthew
- Jn = John

Bible statistics

- 66 books: 39 in the OT and 27 in the NT
- 1189 chapters
- 31,173 verses
- Chapter in the middle of the Bible: Psalm 117
- Longest chapter: Psalm 119
- Shortest chapter: Psalm 117
- Shortest verses: John 11:35
- 1 Thess 5:17

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Bible Guide

A help to discover
the treasures in
God's Word

*The Word of God was not given
to us to increase our knowledge,
but to transform our lives.*

You can keep the leaflet permanently in your Bible
by sticking this page to the inside of the cover.

The Psalms

Psalms of praise: Psalm 29 • 33 • 65 • 66 • 89A • 95A
100 • 103 • 111 • 113 • 117
135 • 136 • 144 - 150

Psalms of creation: Psalm 8 • 19A • 104 • 139 • 148

Psalms of trust: Psalm 5 • 16 • 17 • 23 • 25 • 26 • 27
40 • 41 • 62 • 63 • 67 • 71 • 75
85 • 91 • 108 • 118 • 121

Psalms of thanksgiving

Collective: Psalm 68 • 107 • 124 • 126

Individual: Psalm 9 • 18 • 30 • 31B
34A • 92 • 116 • 138

Psalms of distress and prayer for deliverance

Collective: Psalm 44 • 60 • 74 • 79 • 80 • 83 • 89B

Individual: Psalm 3 - 4 • 7 • 10 - 14 • 22 • 28 • 31A

35 • 36 • 39B • 42 • 43 • 54 • 55 •

56

57 • 59 • 61 • 64 • 69 • 70 • 77 • 88

86 • 94 • 102 • 109 • 140 • 141 • 142

Psalms of repentance: Psalm 6 • 32 • 38 • 51 • 130 • 143

Psalms of wisdom Psalm 1 • 19B • 34B • 37 • 39A • 49

and teaching: 50 • 52 • 53 • 58 • 73 • 81 • 82 • 90

101 • 112 • 115 • 119 • 127 • 133 • 139

Proclaiming God as king: Psalm 47 • 93 • 96 • 97 • 98 • 99

Royal psalms: Psalm 2 • 18 • 20 • 21 • 45 • 72 • 110 • 132

Historical psalms: Psalm 78 • 105 • 106 • 114 • 137

Psalms of Zion (Jerusalem): Psalm 46 • 48 • 76 • 84 • 87 • 122

Who is Jesus?

Lamb of God John 1:29

Prince of Peace Isa 9:6

Author of Life Acts 3:15

The Way John 14:6

The Image of God 2 Cor 4:4

The Word John 1:1,14

Rock 1 Cor 10:4

Lord of Glory 1 Cor 2:8

Mighty God Isa 9:6

The Holy One Acts 3:14

5:20

The Righteous One Acts 3:14

Deliverer Rom 11:26

Son of the Most High Luke 1:32

Our Life Col 3:4

Redeemer Job 19:25

Alpha and Omega Rev 22:13

The Life John 14:6

Light of the World John 8:12

Bread of Life John 6:35

The Truth John 14:6

Word of Life 1 John 1:1

Lion of Judah Rev 5:5

The Living One Rev 1:18

Mediator 1 Tim 2:5

True God 1 John

King of Israel John 1:49

Lord and Saviour 2 Pet 2:20

The Cornerstone Eph 2:20

Wonderful Counsellor Isa 9:6

Author and Heb 12:2

What happened on the cross?

The Bible uses different words and illustrations to explain what happened at Jesus' death and resurrection.

Here are some of the most important:

- Sacrifice** — an illustration from the Temple:
Jesus was sacrificed for us as the Lamb of God
1 Cor 5:7 • Eph 5:2 • Heb 9:27f • Rev 5:12f • John 1:29
 - Reconciliation** — an illustration from friendship / relationships:
The friendship with God is restored and the enmity is removed
Rom 5:10 • 2 Cor 5:18-20 • Col 1:21-22
 - Redemption (=Liberation)** — an illustration from slave markets:
Jesus bought us (freed us) from slavery to sin and the Devil
1 Cor 6:20 • Eph 1:7 • 1 Pet 1:18f • Rev 5:9 • Mark 10:45
 - Justification** — an illustration from the law court:
We are declared innocent because Jesus took the penalty for us
Rom 3:24 & 5:1,9 • Gal 2:16 • 1 Cor 6:11 • Isaiah 53:11
- e) **Adoption** — an illustration from family life:
God receives us as his children because of Jesus

What is God like?

He is ...

Creator	Gen 1 • Psa 33 • Col 1:15-17
The only God	Is 43:10-13 • Is 44:6-8 • 1 Cor 8:4-6 • Jude 1:25
Faithful	Ex 34:6 • Deut 7:9 & 32:4 • 2 Thes 3:3 • 2 Tim 2:11ff
Full of love	Psa 86:5,15 • 103 • Mic 7:18f • 1 John 4:7-21
Our Father	Mat 6:6 • Mat 7:11 • Gal 4:6f • Isa 63:16
Holy	Psa 99 • Is 6:1-5 • 1 Pet 1:15f • Rev 15:3f
Eternal	Deut 33:27 • Ps 90 • Jer 10:10 • 1 Tim 1:17 • 2 Pet 3:8
Righteous	Psa 9:8 • 11:7 • 33:4f • John 17:25 • 2 Tim 4:8
Almighty	1 Chron 29:10-13 • Jer 32:17 • Mat 28:18 • Rev 1:8
Visible in Jesus	John 14:8-11 • Col 1:15-20 • Heb 1:1-3 • Isa 9:2-6
Full of care	Psa 23 • Mat 6:25-34 • 10:28-31 • 1 Pet 5:7
Judge of all	Isa 33:22 • Mat 25:31-46 • Acts 17:31 • James 4:12
Friend of sinners	Luke 15:10,21-24 • 19:10 • Mat 9:9-13 • 1 Tim 1:15
Beyond comparison	Psa 139:1-18 • Is 55:8-11 • Rom 11:33-36
Triune	Mat 3:16-17 • 28:19 • Jn 10:30 • Rom 8:9 • 1 Cor 12:4-6 • 2 Cor 13:14 • 1 Pet 1:2 • Gen 1:26
☞Unchangeable	Hebr 1:10-12 ☞God of all comfort 2 Cor 1:3-5
☞Full of grace	Eph 2:4-10 ☞Immortal and invisible 1 Tim 6:15f
☞Near the lowly	Isa 57:15 ☞God of history Dan 2:20-22
Psa 77:14 ☞Forgives	Micah 7:18f ☞Performs miracles
☞Lord of peace 2 Thess 3:16	☞Hates evil Isa 61:8

Great verses to MEMORIZE

The gospel

Rom 3:23 All have sinned

Rom 6:23 Penalty for sin

1 Pet 3:18 Once for all

Eph 2:8-9 Saved by grace

Rev 3:20 Receive Jesus

John 5:24 Assurance

Life with Jesus

2 Cor 5:17 New life

Gal 2:20 Christ in me

John 14:21 Obedience

Heb 4:12 The Word

Phil 4:6f Prayer

Heb 10:24f Fellowship

1 Pet 3:15 Prepared

God's gifts

1 Cor 2:12 God's Spirit

Isa 41:10 God's power

John 14:27 God's peace

1 Pet 5:7 God's care

Lam 3:22f His faithfulness

1 Cor 10:13 A way out

Discipleship

Mat 6:33 New priorities

Rom 12:2 Counter-culture

1 Cor 10:31 For God's glory

2 Cor 9:6-7 Cheerful giving

Micah 6:8 Requirements

Mat 20:26-28 Servant heart

Promises for life and death

Deut 31:8 • 2 Chron 7:14

Ps 9:10 • 16:11 • 34:18 • 55:22

103:11f • 121 • 145:18

Isa 41:10 • 45:3 • 49:15 • 57:15

Jer 17:7f • 29:11-13

Lam 3:21-26 • Ezek 34:15-16

36:26f • Zeph 3:17 • Mat 7:7f

10:28-31 • 11:28-30 • 18:19-20

Mark 10:29-30 • Luke 1:37

John 5:24 • 6:35,40 • 8:12,31f

10:27-28 • 11:25-26 • 14:27

Rom 8:15-17 • 8:28,35-39 • 14:8

1 Cor 10:13 • 2 Cor 9:8

Heb 7:25 • 13:5 • Rev 21:1-6

Selected Prayers in the Bible

Deut 9:25-29 ☞ 2 Sam 7:18-29

1 Chron 29:10-19 ☞ Ezra 9:5-15

Nehemiah 1:5-11 ☞ Isaiah 64:1-11

Jeremiah 20:7-13 ☞ Daniel 9:4-19

Jonah 2:2-10

Acts 4:24-30 ☞ 1 Thess 3:10-13

Eph 1:15-23 and 3:14-21 ☞ John 17

The book of Psalms in the Old Testament is the prayer book of the Bible. See the overview on this page.

Suggestions for your

Daily Quiet Time

- Start with a short prayer.
 - Read a passage from the Bible. (Half a chapter is often suitable. Read it slowly a couple of times.)
 - You may use one of these two methods for studying the passage:
 - The 4P Method**
 - What is the main *point*?
 - Are there any *parallel texts* about the same themes?
- (Use cross-references in the Bible.)

- What is the message to me *personally*? What does God want to tell me?
- What are the *practical* implications of these verses for my life as a Christian?

B) 5 Facts & Observations

Read the text carefully and try to find 5 significant facts / truths / observations. Write them down. Decide which is the most important verse or expression in the passage. Reflect on the following question: What is the significance of these verses for my life today?

4 Prayer

- Adoration and praise
- Confession of sins
- Thanksgiving
- Prayer: •for myself •for others

Overview of the Old Testament

Genesis

- 1-2 Creation
- 3-4 Fall
- 6-9 Noah
- 11 Tower of Babel
- 12-25 Abraham (c. 2000 B.C.)
- 21-27 Isaac
- 25-36 Jacob
- 37-50 Joseph (c. 1850 B.C.)

Exodus

- 1 Oppression in Egypt
- 2-6 Birth and call of Moses
- 7-11 The 10 plagues in Egypt
- 12-13 Exodus from Egypt (c. 1400 B.C.)
- 14-19 Journey to Mount Sinai
- 20 The 10 Commandments
- 21-31 Laws and regulations
- 32 The Golden Calf
- 33-34 Renewal of the covenant
- 35-40 The Tabernacle

Leviticus

- 1-7 Laws regarding offerings
- 8-9 Ordination of Aaron
- 11-15 Laws of purity
- 16 The Day of Atonement
- 17-27 Laws and regulations

Numbers

- 1-10 Census of the people, the Levites, various laws
- 11-21 Leaving Sinai, journey in the desert, disobedience, various laws
- 22-24 Balaam
- 25-36 Journey to the area east of Jordan. Various laws

Deuteronomy

- The farewell discourse of Moses, repeating the most important events from the 40 desert years.*
- 1-4 Historical review and exhortations

- 5-11 Reminder about the covenant with the Lord
- 12-26 Various laws, warnings against leaving the Lord
- 27-30 Curses and blessings
- 31-34 Moses' final farewell

Joshua

- 1-5 Preparations for the conquest of Canaan
- 6-12 Conquest of Canaan
- 6: The fall of Jericho
- 13-22 Distribution of the land among Israel's tribes
- 23-24 Joshua's farewell

Judges

- 1 The conquest of Canaan
- 2-16 The 12 Judges
- 6-9: Gideon
- 13-16: Samson
- 17-21 Religious and moral disorder

Ruth

The story of Ruth, David's great-grandmother. Around 1100 B.C.

1 Samuel

- 1-8 Samuel as Judge
- 9-15 Saul, Israel's first king
- 16 David anointed to be king
- 17 David and Goliath
- 18-30 Saul persecutes David
- 28 & 31 Saul's defeat and death

2 Samuel

- 1-24 David as king over Israel (from around 1000 B.C.)
- 7: God's covenant with David
- 11-12: David and Bathsheba
- 13-19: Absalom's rebellion
- 22: David's song of praise

1 Kings

- 1-2 The death of David
- 3-11 Solomon as king
- 12-16 The kingdom is divided into two separate parts:
 - ☞ Israel in the north,
 - ☞ Judah in the south
- 17-22 The prophet Elijah
- 18: Elijah on Mount Carmel

2 Kings

- 1-2 Elijah's last days
- 3-8 The prophet Elisha
- 5: Naaman
- 9-16 Short accounts of the kings of
 - Judah in the south and
 - Israel in the north
- 17 Israel's fall. Deportation of the people to Assyria (722 B.C.)
- 18-23 The kings of Judah from 722 B.C. to 587 B.C.
- 23: King Josiah renews the covenant
- 24-25 The Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar conquers Jerusalem. The people are deported to Babylon in 587 B.C.

1 Chronicles

The two books of Chronicles tell a very condensed version of the biblical story, concentrating on the reigns of David and Solomon.

- 1-10 Genealogies
- 11-21 The reign of David
- 22-29 The Temple

2 Chronicles

- 1-9 The reign of Solomon, the building of the Temple
- 10-36 History of the kings of Judah in the south

The EXILE in BABYLON

587 - 538 B.C.

Ezra

- 1 The Persian king Cyrus lets the Jews return home from exile in Babylon
- 2-6 Rebuilding of the Temple (around 520 B.C.)
- 7-10 Ezra and his work in Jerusalem

Nehemiah

- 1-7 The walls of Jerusalem are rebuilt (around 450 B.C.)
- 8-13 Renewal of the people's religious life

Esther

- 1-2 The Persian queen is deposed. Esther is made queen in her place
- 3-8 Plot to destroy the Jews. Esther intervenes.
- 9-10 Triumph of the Jews

Job

- 1-2 Prologue: Job and Satan
- 3-37 Dialogues between Job and his 'friends'
- 38-41 The Lord speaks to Job
- 42 Job's confession and restoration

Psalms

The Psalms were the Israelites' book of prayers and hymns. According to information in the Psalms, 73 of them were written by David, 12 by Asaph, 12 by the Sons of Korah, 2 by Solomon, 1 by Moses, 1 by Heman and 1 by Ethan. 48 lack indication of author. See the detailed overview of the Psalms below.

Proverbs

A collection of wise sayings, rules for living and exhortations, written

by Solomon and other wise men – e.g. Agur 30:1 and Lemuel 31:1.

Ecclesiastes

- 1 Introduction to the theme: 'Everything is meaningless'
- 2-12 The theme is expounded
- 3: 'A time for everything'
- Ch 12:13-14 Conclusion

Song of Songs

Poem about the love between a man and a woman. In addition to being a love poem, many interpret the message of the book as a poetic illustration of the relationship between the heavenly bridegroom (Christ) and his church.

Isaiah (c. 740-680 B.C.)

Ch 1 - 39: The Book of Judgment

- 1-12 Messages of rebuke and promise for God's people
- 6: Isaiah's calling
- 13-23 Judgment against the nations
- 24-39 Messages of judgment and promise

Ch 40-66: The Book of Comfort

- Deliverance and Restoration.
- The 4 songs about the Lord's suffering servant: 42:1-6 • 49:1-6 • 50:4-9 • 52:13-53:12

Jeremiah (c. 627-587 B.C.)

- 1 The calling of Jeremiah
- 2-25 Warnings to Judah and Jerusalem
- 26-29 + 36-45 Sufferings of Jeremiah
- 30-33 Promises of restoration
- 46-51 Judgment against the nations
- 52 Fall of Jerusalem

Lamentations

Written around 587 B.C. when Jerusalem was destroyed and

the people deported to Babylon.

Ezekiel (Ministered as a prophet 593-571 BC)

- 1-3 The calling of Ezekiel
- 4-24 Warnings and judgment against Judah
- 25-32 Judgment against other nations
- 33-39 Consolation for Israel
- 34: Sheep and shepherds
- 40-48 Visions of the new Temple and the new land

Daniel (c. 605-530 B.C.)

- 1-6 The story of Daniel
- 6: Daniel in the lions' den
- 7-12 Daniel's visions

12 'minor' prophets

- Hosea c. 750 B.C.
- Joel c. 800 B.C.?
- Amos c. 750 B.C.
- Obadiah c. 600 B.C.?
- Jonah c. 730 B.C.?
- Micah c. 730 B.C.
- Nahum c. 620 B.C.
- Habakkuk c. 600 B.C.
- Zephaniah c. 625 B.C.
- Haggai c. 520 B.C.
- Zechariah c. 520 B.C.
- Malachi c. 440 B.C.

Read the OT

If you are unfamiliar with the OT, it might be a good idea to start your reading with these books:

Genesis ♦ Exodus ♦ 1 & 2 Samuel
Psalms ♦ Proverbs ♦ Isaiah 40-66