



CHURCH ON THE ROCK
Alaska

THE BIBLE ROADMAP



Introduction

Reading the Bible is one of the most important parts of your spiritual growth. The Bible is a primary way God introduces Himself to us. It shows us what is valuable to Him. It teaches us how to live in relationship with Him, how to love others, and how to make wise decisions. Jesus said,

“I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly”

JOHN 10:10 ESV

The Bible shows us how to live an abundant life. The Bible is a large book that it can feel intimidating. This resource is designed as a sort of roadmap to help you find your way around the Bible, to learn some of the language Christians use to talk about it, and to give you a starting point for what can be a lifetime of rich discovery from the pages of Scripture.

By the end of this booklet, you should be able to:

- Understand the way the Bible is organized.
- Locate Bible verses using their numbering system.
- Know a few common Bible terms.
- Know what type of writings are found in each book.

The Bible

The story of the Bible centers around God’s plan to reveal His nature. From beginning to end, God’s goodness and plan to bless all creation emerges, acting as an invitation to take another look at the Giver of every good and perfect gift.

The Book

The word Bible comes from the generic Latin word for ‘book.’ It is really a collection of smaller books written by dozens of people over thousands of years. These writings are a rich collection of history, poetry, biography, instruction, songs, prophecy, personal letters, theology, allegory, proverb, and apocalypse.

The Order

The books of the Bible were compiled first by genre (style), then roughly chronologically (in order of time written) within each genre grouping. The Bible is grouped into two larger parts. The first part, commonly called the Old Testament, is the Scripture anticipating the ministry of Jesus. The second part is the New Testament. This section contains the ministry of Jesus and the discussion of how He is redeeming everything.

The Numbers

The Bible is organized by Book, Chapter, and Verse. Each chapter is numbered and is divided into shorter numbered sections called verses. This system makes it easy to locate a particular portion of writing.

e.g. **Genesis 6:8** references a passage located in the **Book** of Genesis | **Chapter** six | **Verse** eight.

Sometimes the book name is abbreviated or only a chapter is referenced (e.g. Gen 6). Capital letters following a reference are an abbreviation telling readers what particular Bible translation was used (e.g.: ESV = English Standard Version; KJV= King James Version).

The Editors

Through the centuries, the Bible was preserved, compiled, and copied by a long series of editors. These priests, monks, and scholars added the chapter and verse numbering system to help readers easily locate passages, or sections of Scripture. The editors also added paragraph breaks and section headings. While these elements were not in the original documents, they are helpful for finding your way around.

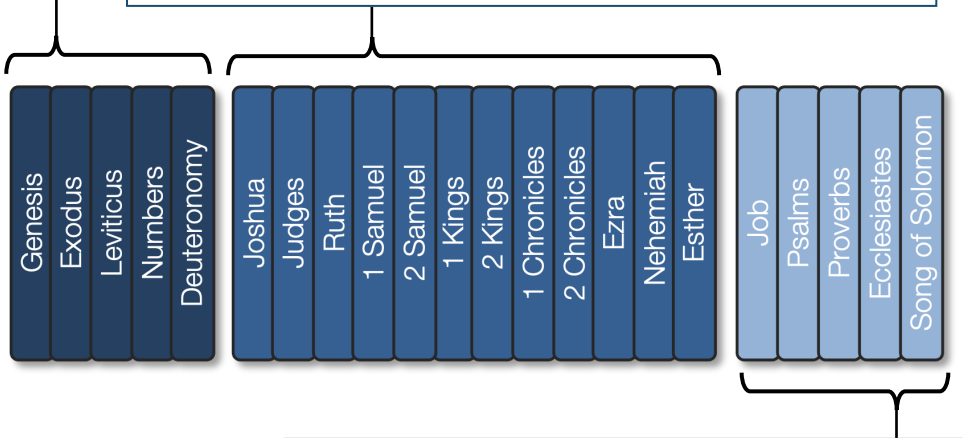
OLD TESTAMENT

PENTATEUCH

A collection of the five books written by Moses including stories of creation, the origin of the Hebrew people, the Exodus, and the Law of Moses.

HISTORY

The history of the people of Israel from the time they moved into the Promised Land, through the establishment of a kingdom, their fall and captivity, and the rebuilding of Jerusalem.



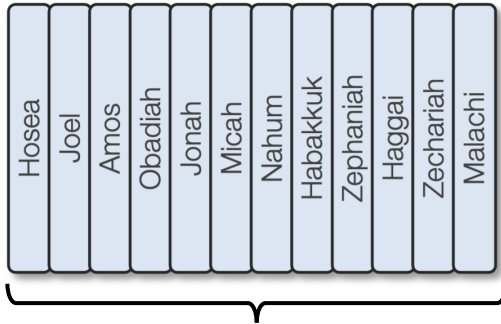
WISDOM LITERATURE

Written in poetic form, these books explore the tensions of living a godly life within the messy human condition.

- Genesis means 'beginnings.' This book contains the stories of the beginning of the world, the beginning of evil, and the beginning of God's plan to deliver the world from sin.
- The story of the Bible explains God's plan to redeem and reconcile the world to Himself. Ultimately, the Bible reveals the goodness of God and His plan to bless all creation.
- David was the most famous king of Israel. His story begins in 1 Samuel 16.

MAJOR PROPHETS

The prophets were people who heard messages from God and wrote them down. These are 'Major' because their books are much longer than the Minor Prophets.



MINOR PROPHETS

Shorter in length than the Majors, their messages are no less important. Concise, precise, and timely, these books make most sense when placed within their historical context. The Minor Prophets contain messages of God's compassion, justice, discipline, and forgiveness.

- Following King David, the nation began a long decline into sinfulness. Israel split in civil war, resulting in the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah.
- Israel was conquered and dispersed by the Assyrian empire in 722 BC. Judah was taken into captivity by the Babylonian empire in 582 BC.
- Isaiah contains many predictions of the coming of a Messiah, or 'deliverer.'

NEW TESTAMENT

GOSPELS

These are four biographical accounts of the life and teaching of Jesus. Each one emphasizes a somewhat different aspect of Jesus' life and ministry.



PAULINE EPISTLES

These letters were written by the Apostle Paul to various local and regional churches. They give both theological and practical instruction.



ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

This is the history of how the Gospel, the good news of Jesus, began to spread throughout the world. Apostles were the leaders and missionaries of the early Church.

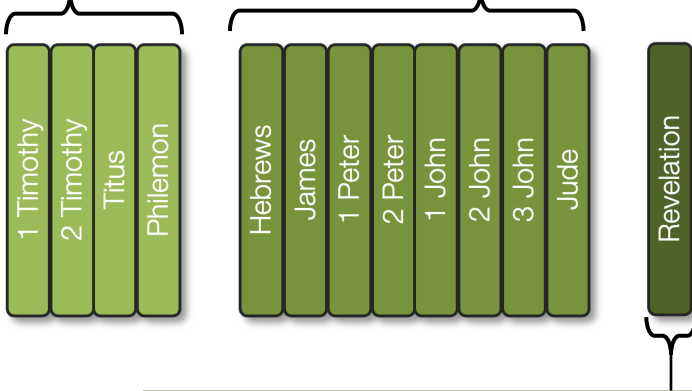
- The Gospels introduce Jesus as the promised Messiah, though He didn't match the expectations of the nation of Israel.
- Matthew, Mark, and Luke take a similar approach to telling Jesus' story. John includes more discussion on the theological and philosophical significance of Jesus.
- Acts first follows Jesus' disciples as they share the Gospel. Then it switches to Paul, a former antagonist to Christianity, as he takes the message of Jesus to non-Jewish people.

PASTORAL EPISTLES

These letters are instructions to individual church leaders. They contain personal and candid discussions of leadership, reconciliation, and ministry.

GENERAL EPISTLES

These letters were written by a variety of authors to a variety of locations. Epistles were written to teach, encourage, and correct their audiences.



APOCALYPTIC WRITING

A highly symbolic book of prophecy, the Revelation of Jesus Christ depicts the battle of evil against God, and God's ultimate victory.

- The word epistle means 'letter.'
- The epistles discuss specific needs of their particular audience.
- Some epistles address incorrect teachings about Jesus. One of the most popular false teachings was that Jesus wasn't human at all, but only divine.
- The Book of Revelation contains vivid imagery and symbolism that was culturally relevant to its original audience.

**The Bible should be exciting, not intimidating
It is the most important book ever written.**

May God answer the prayer found in Ephesians 1:16-17 as you dive into the pages of Scripture.

EPHESIANS 1:16-19

“I remember you in my prayers and ask the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, to give you the Spirit, who will make you wise and reveal God to you, so that you will know him.”