

**JOY**

# My Bible Reading Book

*"Remember now  
thy Creator  
in the days of thy youth"  
—Ecclesiastes 12:1*

Volume 2

FREE

Not to be sold



- **FOR YOUTH OF ALL AGES.**
- *A simple, easy way to read the Bible through in a year or less.*
- *How to find Eternal Life (page 25).*
- *Special memory verses from each book of the Bible.*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

## THE HOLY BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD

### The Bible Has Only One Author—the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:21 says, "For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." 2 Timothy 3:16 says, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." Under the title of each book of the Bible in this study is the name of the holy man God used to write down His message. Each wrote as he was moved by the Holy Spirit.

### Two Main Reasons God Gave Us the Scriptures:

**A. FAITH:** "... these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31).

**B. GOOD WORKS:** "That the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:17). (Read Hebrews 13:20-21.) **True faith in Jesus Christ always produces good works** (James 2: 17-26).

What food is to the body, the Bible is to the soul. Feed your soul with the Bible every day.

### HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

1. Every day read at least one chapter in your Bible.
2. Circle the number of the chapter you read on the page which names the book of the Bible you are reading.

Example:



3. If you want to read your Bible through in one year, read three chapters every day. (Perhaps you will want to read two chapters from the Old Testament and one chapter from the New Testament each day. One chapter could be from Psalms or Proverbs.) Circle the number of each chapter you read.

4. When you have finished reading a complete book of the Bible, memorize any or all of the Bible verses given on that page of *My Bible Reading Book*. Share them by repeating them to others.

5. After reading all 66 books of the Bible, all your chapter numbers will have circles around them. Now read through the Bible again, this time putting an X over each circled number of the chapter you read.

Example:



6. When you have finished reading your Bible the second time, make sure you know all the memory verses as well. Then you are ready to read the Bible through for the third time! This time fill in each circle with pen or pencil.

Example:



7. Keep reading and studying your Bible. You may send for other Scripture booklets available from World Missionary Press, Inc. See the address on the back cover. Send your name and complete mailing address.

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# GENESIS

(50 chapters)

**WRITER—MOSES.** Read Deuteronomy chapter 31 and Luke 24:27.

“Genesis” means “beginning.” This book tells about many beginnings: of this world (1:1); man (1:26-27); the Sabbath (2:2-3); marriage (2:21-24); sin (3:1-11); sorrow and death (3:16-19); sacrifice (4:1-7); murder (4:8-11); and nations (10:32).

**SPECIAL CHARACTERS—**Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel, Seth, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Lot, Ishmael, Isaac, Rebekah, Esau, Jacob, Leah, Rachel, Joseph, Benjamin, and Judah. **If you have ever felt rejected or ill-treated, you should read the life of Joseph in chapters 37 and 39-50.** God used Joseph in a mighty way. God can use us, too, if we remain true and keep our trust in God.

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*Because of disobedience to God, Adam and Eve are sent from the Garden of Eden. The Savior is promised in Genesis 3:15 and 12:3.*

Genesis shows the origin of the nation of Israel as God's chosen people from whom the Redeemer would come.

## SPECIAL MEMORY VERSES

**Genesis 1:1**—"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

**Genesis 1:27**—"So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

**Genesis 2:7**—"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul" (KJV).

**Genesis 31:49**—" . . . The LORD watch between you and me when we are absent one from another."

**In the beginning of the Old Testament God is mentioned (Genesis 1:1). In the beginning of the New Testament Jesus Christ is mentioned (Matthew 1:1).**

# EXODUS

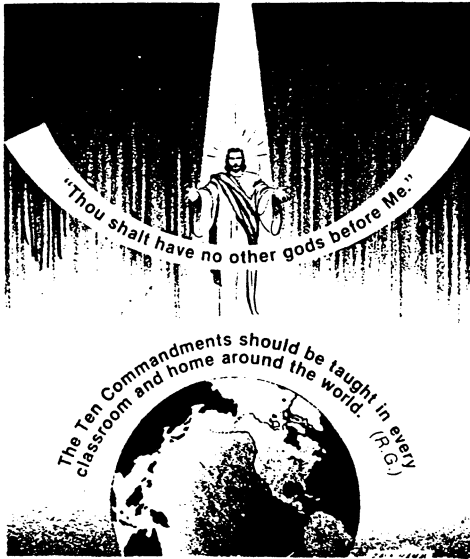
(40 chapters)

**WRITER—MOSES.** “Exodus” means “going out.” Moses is used by God to lead his people out of Egypt. The passover in chapter 12 is a clear picture of salvation through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God—Christ our Passover. (Read also 1 Corinthians 5:7.)

## HIGHLIGHTS OF EXODUS

1. Children of Israel in great bondage—chapter 1
2. Moses is called by God to deliver His people—chapters 3 and 4
3. The ten plagues sent on the Egyptians—chapters 7-11
4. The thrilling story of the Passover and deliverance—chapter 12  
verse 13—“...when I see the blood, I will pass over you.”
5. Mighty deliverance through the Red Sea—chapter 14
6. A special song of praise is sung by Moses and his people—chapter 15
7. The Ten Commandments are given—chapter 20
8. Various laws and ordinances given to the people—chapters 21-24
9. Directions for the tabernacle (chapters 25-31); tabernacle built (chapters 35-40)

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*God gave the Ten Commandments to man as a basis of moral law.*

## MEMORIZE THE TEN COMMANDMENTS\*

(Found in Exodus 20:1-17, KJV)

### OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD

1. “Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.”
2. “Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image.”
3. “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain.”
4. “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.”

### OUR RELATIONSHIP TO MAN

5. “Honour thy father and thy mother.”
6. “Thou shalt not kill.”
7. “Thou shalt not commit adultery.”
8. “Thou shalt not steal.”
9. “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.”
10. “Thou shalt not covet . . . any thing that is thy neighbour’s.”

\*Older children and adults may want to memorize the complete Bible verses.

# LEVITICUS

(27 chapters)

**WRITER—MOSES.** “Leviticus” means “and He called” or “pertaining to Levites.” The Levites, one tribe out of the 12 tribes of Israel, were set apart for the work of God. The family of Aaron was set apart to be priests. The rest of the Levites were their assistants. The Levites came from the tribe of Levi.

## BRIEF VIEW OF LEVITICUS

**Five kinds of offerings** are named in the first six chapters: burnt offering; meat offering; peace offering; sin offering; and trespass offering. Leviticus 23 speaks of **five great feasts:** Sabbath, Passover, Pentecost, Trumpets, and Tabernacles. Then there was the **Day of Atonement** (commemorated annually and the greatest day of the year for God’s chosen people) found in Leviticus 16:30-34 and 23:26-32. Leviticus 25 tells of the **Sabbatic year** (a year-long Sabbath every seventh year) and also the **year of Jubilee** (celebrated every 50th year).

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*God gave health food laws to Israel (Leviticus 11 and 17:10-14).*

*God teaches man to love his neighbor and to live a godly life (Leviticus 19:2b).*

*(Read chapters 19, 20, and 26.)*

## NATIONS THAT KEEP GOD’S COMMANDMENTS ARE BLESSED

(Leviticus 26:3-12)

- Verse 4—** He will give rain in due season.  
The land shall yield its increase.  
The trees of the field shall yield fruit.
- Verse 5—** You shall eat bread to the full.  
You will dwell in your land safely.
- Verse 6—** God will give peace in your land.  
You shall not be afraid to go to sleep at night.  
God will rid evil beasts out of your land.  
The sword shall not go through your land.

Disobedience to God’s commandments brings famine, war, and pestilences. Read Leviticus 26:14-39. This is confirmed in Ezekiel 14:13-20. Hope is given to Israel if they confess their sins and turn to the Lord (Leviticus 26:40-46).

## SPECIAL MEMORY VERSE

**Leviticus 19:18—**“You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge . . . ,  
but you shall love your neighbor as yourself . . . .”

# NUMBERS

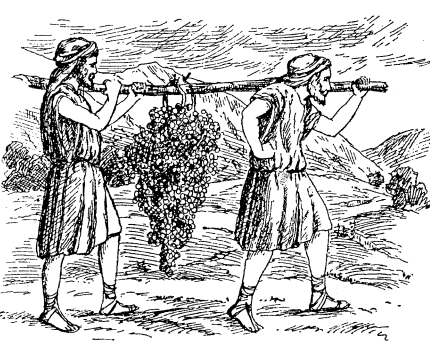
(36 chapters)

**WRITER—MOSES.** Numbers received its name from the numbering of the children of Israel. Two numberings are recorded—one before leaving Sinai and one before entering Canaan. The book could also be called the Book of Wilderness Wanderings or the Book of Murmurings. Because of their spirit of rebellion and unbelief, the Israelites wandered in the wilderness for forty years. **People mentioned—**Moses; Aaron, the high priest and Moses' brother; Miriam, their sister; Joshua and Caleb; and Balaam, whose prophecy in Numbers 24:17 predicted that a "Star" would come forth from Jacob.

## Moses, the Great Leader

**1. Moses had trouble with his own trusted leaders.** Miriam and Aaron tried to usurp his authority and spoke against him. God punishes them (chapter 12). Ten of the twelve spies sent to spy out the land of Canaan gave an evil report and led the people in their refusal to enter Canaan. As a result every male from twenty years of age upward (except Joshua and Caleb) would die in the wilderness and not enter the promised land (Numbers 32:6-13).

**2. Because of his disobedience,** Moses, the meekest man on the face of the earth (Numbers 12:3), could only SEE the land God had given to Israel (Numbers 27:12-14). Instead of speaking to the rock to bring forth water, he struck it (Numbers 20:7-12). Moses is to put Joshua in charge after his death (Numbers 27:15-23). The importance of obedience is stressed in Numbers.

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*Grapes are brought back from the land of Canaan. Joshua and Caleb were the only spies who had faith that Israel could enter Canaan.*

## MEMORY VERSES

**Numbers 32:23—**“... Be sure your sin will find you out.”


**Numbers 6:24-26—**“The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.”

# DEUTERONOMY

(34 chapters)

**WRITER—MOSES**, except for the last chapter telling of his death (Deuteronomy 1:1, 16, 18; 3:21; 29:5). The five books which Moses wrote are **about eighty-five percent as much as the New Testament**. He spent 40 years in the palace of Pharaoh, 40 years as a refugee in the land of Midian, and 40 years as the leader of Israel in the wilderness. God used him to deliver three million people from serving the Egyptians—transplanting them to another land!

“**Deuteronomy**” means “second law” or “repetition of the law;” that is, the law is repeated. See Deuteronomy 5:7-21 for the 10 Commandments repeated.

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*A father teaching the commandments of God to his children.*

## PARENTS—GIVE YOUR CHILDREN A GODLY HERITAGE

**Deuteronomy 6:7, 9**—“You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

**HOW TO GIVE:** “Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you” (Deuteronomy 16:17). What a wonderful principle upon which to base our own giving!

## SPECIAL VERSES FROM DEUTERONOMY

**Deuteronomy 6:5**—“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.” (This commandment has blessings attached—11:13-16).

**Deuteronomy 7:9**—“... the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments.”

**Deuteronomy 8:3**—“... Man shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD.”

**Deuteronomy 24:16**—“The fathers shall not be put to death for their children, nor shall the children be put to death for their fathers: a person shall be put to death for his own sin.

**Deuteronomy 26:11**—“So you shall rejoice in every good thing which the LORD your God has given to you . . .”

**Deuteronomy 30:19**—“... I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.”

**Deuteronomy 31:6**—“Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them: for the LORD your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.”

**“The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms . . .”—Deuteronomy 33:27**

# JOSHUA

(24 chapters)

**WRITER—UNCERTAIN**, probably Joshua, the son of Nun. Joshua was of the tribe of Ephraim (Numbers 13:8, 16). He had been one of the 12 spies. Joshua and Caleb were the only two spies who had FAITH to go up and possess the land. The other ten discouraged the people. Now Joshua is in charge. The Lord challenges Joshua to stick to the Word of God:

**“Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you: do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”**  
—Joshua 1:7-8

Joshua is a great leader. **“And Joshua said to the people, ‘Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you’ ”** (Joshua 3:5).

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*The fall of Jericho (Joshua chapter 6).  
Joshua does exactly what God commanded him.*

## SPECIAL VERSES IN JOSHUA

**Joshua 23:10**—“One man . . . shall chase a thousand, for the LORD your God is He who fights for you, as He has promised you.”

**Joshua 23:11**—“Therefore take diligent heed to yourselves, that you love the LORD your God.”

## SOME OF JOSHUA’S LAST WORDS

**Joshua 23:14**—“Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you, and not one word of them has failed.”

**Joshua 24:14**—“Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served . . . .”

**Joshua 24:15**—“And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, . . . But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Jesus calls us all to follow Him. What you and I choose to do decides our destiny. We can choose to follow Christ or not to follow Christ. If we do not enter the kingdom of God, it will not be the Lord's fault. Our own choices will save or condemn us! He is “not willing that any should perish” (2 Peter 3:9).

**“Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods.”**

—Joshua 24:16



# JUDGES

(21 chapters)

**WRITER—UNKNOWN.** Tradition says it was Samuel. The history of Israel is recorded from the death of Joshua to the death of Samson. In these days there was no king in Israel. Everybody did that which was right in his own eyes. The people kept falling away from God to worship idols. Then came oppression from the enemy. When Israel cried to God, God would have pity and raise up judges who saved Israel from their enemies.

**When the people served God, they prospered; when they served idols, they suffered.** Israel's troubles were because of her disobedience to God.

Some of the **judges God used** to deliver Israel were: Othniel, a nephew of Caleb; Ehud; Deborah and Barak; Gideon; Jephthah; and Samson. The last four are among the heroes of faith listed in Hebrews 11:32. In Judges chapter 9 we read about how God brought down Abimelech, that wicked usurper.

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*Deliverance comes through a handful of people.*

*Gideon finds that humanism is disapproved by the Lord (Judges 7:2).*

**MEMORY VERSE: Judges 7:2—**“And the LORD said to Gideon, ‘The people who are with you are too many for Me to give the Midianites into their hands, lest Israel claim glory for itself against Me, saying, “My own hand has saved me.” ’”

## Something to Think About

We must remember it is the Lord who has made us, and not we ourselves (Psalm 100:3). It is God who gives us every breath we breathe. Without Him we can do nothing (John 15:5). It is God who enables us to work and buy food for our earthly existence. Read Deuteronomy 8:11-18 again. This passage of Scripture tells us not to forget the Lord our God, lest when we have eaten and are full, and have built good houses, our hearts be lifted up and we forget God—the very One who led us, and fed us—and we say: “**My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth**” (Deuteronomy 8:17). We must remember it is the Lord who gives us power to get wealth. “**And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth**” (Deuteronomy 8:18a). If we forget God, we will perish (Deuteronomy 8:19-20). Every good gift comes down from our Father above (James 1:17).

Gideon said: “... I have seen the Angel of the LORD face to face.” The Lord said: “Peace . . . ; do not fear, you shall not die” (Judges 6:22-23).

# RUTH

(4 chapters)

**WRITER—UNKNOWN, possibly Samuel.** This is a very beautiful love story and a peaceful picture of domestic life in a time of anarchy and trouble. In this book we read about the founding of the family in which the Savior of the world would come. Ruth is the great-grandmother of King David.

About a mile east of Bethlehem is a field called “Field of Boaz.” Tradition says this is the field where Ruth gleaned. Next to it is the “Shepherds’ Field,” where tradition says the angels announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds.

The lovely romance of Boaz and Ruth reminds us that God had His hand upon events. Through this marriage all the world would be blessed. The genealogy in Ruth 4:17-22 states Ruth’s son is Obed, Obed’s son is Jesse, and Jesse’s son is David.

Ruth is highly praised for being a loving daughter-in-law. Naomi is greatly blessed by Ruth and the women rejoice with her over the birth of Obed. “**For your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him**” (Ruth 4:15b). Ruth is one of those two books in the Bible named after a woman—the other book is Esther.



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*Ruth’s great love for Naomi prompts her to leave her own country and to accept the true and living God.*

### Three Special Verses

**Ruth 1:16**—“But Ruth said, ‘Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; for wherever you go, I will go; and wherever you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.’”

**Ruth 1:17**—“‘Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, if anything but death parts you and me.’”

**Ruth 2:12**—“The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust” (KJV). (These words were spoken by Boaz to Ruth.)

**SIMPLE OUTLINE OF RUTH**—Chapter one: Ruth chooses; Chapter two: Ruth labors; Chapter three: Ruth waits; Chapter four: Ruth is rewarded.

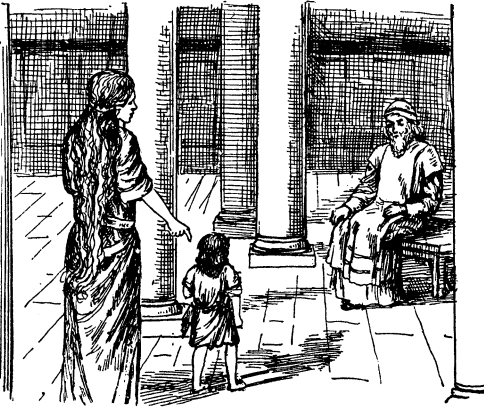
# FIRST SAMUEL

(31 chapters)

**WRITER**—UNKNOWN. Jewish tradition says it was Samuel, but this seems impossible since Samuel's death is recorded in 1 Samuel 25:1. First Samuel covers the birth of Samuel to the death of King Saul (chapter 31).

**SPECIAL CHARACTERS**—**Hannah**, who prays for a baby boy; **Eli**, the priest, who has wicked sons; **Samuel**, who receives a call from God (all Israel knew he was established to be a prophet of the Lord—3:20); **Saul**, who is chosen to rule as king over Israel, rules and is rejected because of disobedience (15:22-26); **David**, who conquers Goliath; **Jonathan**, whose heart is knit to David (18:1 and 23:16-18); **Abigail**, who saves the day for her rude husband, **Nabal**; choosing of a future king from the sons of **Jesse**; and **Michal**, the wife of David who helps spare his life; **King Saul** and his three sons, **Jonathan**, **Abinadab**, and **Melchishua**. All perish in the battle with the Philistines (chapter 31).

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*Hannah brings the boy Samuel to serve in the house of the Lord. Samuel becomes a great prophet (3:19-21) and judge (7:15-17).*

## Special Verses in 1 Samuel

- 1 Samuel 12:22a—"For the LORD will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake."
- 1 Samuel 12:23a—" . . . God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you" (KJV).
- 1 Samuel 12:24—"Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you."
- 1 Samuel 15:23—"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. . . ."
- 1 Samuel 16:7—" . . . the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."
- 1 Samuel 17:47b—"The LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's . . . ."
- 1 Samuel 18:14—"David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the LORD was with him."

## TWO THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

- 1 We can encourage others in the Lord like Jonathan did for David. "Then Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David in the woods, and strengthened his hand in God" (1 Samuel 23:16).
- 2 The value of good, beautiful music is seen in its effect on King Saul in driving away an evil spirit. " . . . David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him" (1 Samuel 16:23, KJV).

# SECOND SAMUEL

(24 chapters)

**WRITER—UNKNOWN.** Second Samuel covers almost all the reign of King David which was forty years (1 Kings 2:11) and carries on the history of Israel from the death of Saul to the reign of Solomon. This is the period of Israel's greatest power and glory, in which the monarchy was firmly established.

## A Brief Bird's-Eye View of Second Samuel

**Chapters 1-4** tell of David's reign in Hebron for seven years. David's sorrow over Jonathan being slain is very touching.

**Chapters 5-24** tell of David's reign in Jerusalem over all Israel for 33 years.

**Chapter 7**—David had wanted to build a temple, but Nathan the prophet receives a message that this cannot be. It will be left for David's son, Solomon, to build the temple.

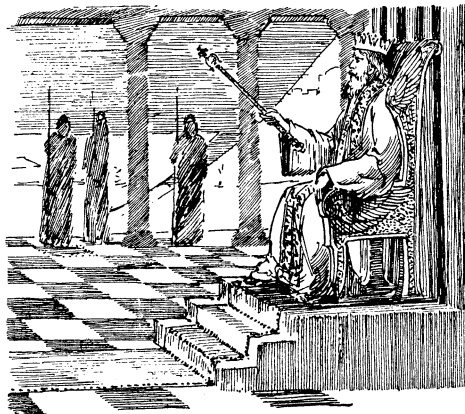
**Chapters 8-10** tell of David's victories. The Lord gave victory wherever David went.

**Chapter 9** tells of King David's kindness to Jonathan's son, Mephibosheth.

**Chapters 11 and 12** tell of the blackest spot in David's life. His adultery with Bathsheba and planned murder to cover up his adultery changed the life of his family. David repents and is forgiven, but his child dies. Blessing once again comes upon David. David's prayer for a clean heart and a right spirit was answered. (Read Psalm 51:10.) In Acts 13:22 we find that David later became a man after God's own heart and truly fulfilled the will of God. Through the line of David, Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world, is born (Acts 13:22-23).

**Chapter 18** tells of David's sorrow over his son Absalom's tragic death.

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*After the death of King Saul, David becomes king.  
As he sat before the Lord, he prayed a wonderful prayer (2 Samuel 7:18-29).*

## Special Verses from 2 Samuel

**2 Samuel 7:22**—" . . . You are great, O Lord GOD. For there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You . . . "

**2 Samuel 22:2**—" . . . the LORD is my Rock, my fortress and my deliverer."

**2 Samuel 22:4**—"I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies."

**2 Samuel 22:33**—"God is my strength and power, and He makes my way perfect."

**2 Samuel 22:36**—"You have also given me the shield of Your salvation, and Your gentleness has made me great."

**2 Samuel 23:3**—" . . . He who rules over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God."

**" . . . Who is God, except the LORD? And who is a rock, except our God?"**

**—2 Samuel 22:32**

# FIRST KINGS

(22 chapters)

**WRITER—UNKNOWN.** Tradition ascribes it to **Jeremiah**. This book covers the history of Israel from the death of King David to the death of Jehoshaphat, king of Judah.

In **chapter 2** King David, who knows he is soon to die, charges his son Solomon with challenging words:

**“I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies . . . that you may prosper in all that you do . . . that the LORD may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, ‘If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,’ He said, ‘you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.’”**

—1 Kings 2:2-4

King David gave many instructions to Solomon. In 1 Kings 3:9 Solomon prays: “Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. . . .” This prayer pleases God. God will give him riches and honor and long life as well. Solomon has a glorious reign and builds the beautiful temple. At the dedication King Solomon stood with his hands spread out toward heaven. During his prayer he kneeled with his hands still spread out to heaven (1 Kings 8:22-54).

In **chapter 10** the Queen of Sheba visits Solomon.

In **chapters 17-19** the grand story of Elijah appears.

In **chapters 20-22** we see what happened to Ahab and Jezebel, who took Naboth’s vineyard in a very wicked way.

**Chapter 22** describes the reign of Jehoshaphat (verses 41-50), who walked in the ways of his father, doing that which was right in the eyes of the Lord.

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*God commands the ravens to bring Elijah bread and meat.  
Elijah drank water from the brook (1 Kings 17:4-6).*

## Something to Think About

God provided for Elijah’s needs in a supernatural way. He used His creation—the ravens. The ravens heard God speaking and were obedient. They brought food every morning and every evening—his diet was bread and meat—sufficient to keep Elijah alive. The birds followed God’s flight plan and arrived at the right place—an amazing miracle. Remember this—God is able to perform miracles of all sorts in a time of emergency.

## Special Verses

**HOW TO LIVE:** “That all the people of the earth may know that the LORD is God, and that there is none else. Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God, . . . to keep His commandments” (1 Kings 8:60-61, KJV).

# SECOND KINGS

(25 chapters)

**WRITER—UNKNOWN.** Tradition ascribes it to **Jeremiah**. This is the history of the divided kingdom from the deaths of Ahab and Jehoshaphat to the final captivity. **The book begins with Ahaziah, who dies because he did not inquire of the Lord about his disease, but inquired of Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron.**

**In chapter 2** Elijah is taken up into heaven in a chariot of fire by a whirlwind. Elisha sees him go and receives a double portion of the spirit of Elijah. **In chapters 2-5** Elisha performs miracles. Naaman, a leper and a great captain under the king of Syria, is healed. Elisha's servant, Gehazi, becomes a leper because he lied. **In chapter 9** Jehu is anointed king of Israel. **Chapter 11** tells of Joash being rescued and hidden six years in the house of the Lord. At age seven he is made king (11:21). The priest Jehoiada instructs Joash, who did right in the sight of the Lord. The temple of the Lord is repaired. Later Joash backslid (fell away from God) and was assassinated (chapter 12). (More about Joash is found in 2 Chronicles 24.)

**Chapter 13** records the death of Elisha.

**Chapters 14-17** tell about the **Northern Kingdom**. Chapter 16 speaks of King Ahaz, who began to reign at age 20. He did evil in the sight of the Lord. Verse 3 says he made his son to pass through the fire. Israel sinned much (17:7-12) under King Ahaz. The children of Israel secretly did things against the Lord their God that were not right (17:9).

**Chapters 18-25** tell about the **Southern Kingdom**. **Chapter 19** tells how King Hezekiah is delivered in answer to prayer. His life is lengthened by 15 years in answer to prayer (chapter 20). **Chapter 22** tells of King Josiah, who was only eight years old when he began to reign. Verse two says he also did what was right in the sight of the Lord. The damages in the house of the Lord were repaired. Hilkiah the high priest found the Book of the Law there (22:8-20). When King Josiah heard the words from the Book, he tore his clothes (verse 11). They had not been keeping the law and God's wrath was against them. The Lord's answer to King Josiah in 22:19-20 is very touching. King Josiah, now in his 18th year, gets busy to correct the evils of his land (chapter 23) "that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD" (23:24b).

**Chapter 25** records the final destruction of Jerusalem.

## King Josiah Is Highly Praised

"Now before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart, with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses; nor after him did any arise like him" (2 Kings 23:25).

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*Naaman, a great and honorable man, was a leper. At the command of Elisha he dips himself seven times in the River Jordan . . . and is healed. God used a little maid to help bring this about (2 Kings chapter 5).*

**MEMORY VERSE: 2 Kings 22:19—**"Because your heart was tender, and you humbled yourself before the LORD, . . . I also have heard you," says the LORD."

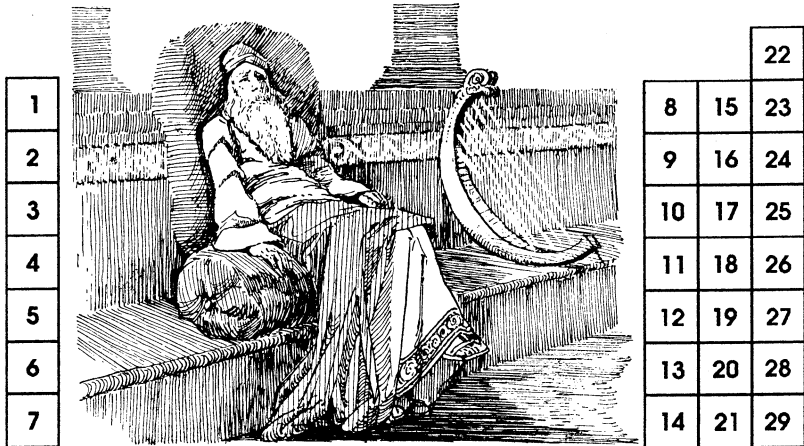
## Something for Special Attention

Only two people have ever been taken to God without passing through the experience of death: Elijah (2 Kings 2:11) and Enoch (Genesis 5:24).

# FIRST CHRONICLES

(29 chapters)

**WRITER—UNCERTAIN.** Perhaps Ezra. The events of this book cover about 40 years—from the death of Saul to the beginning of Solomon's reign. The purpose of this book is to give a history of the house of David. Much is said about his reign and his temple arrangements.



*King Saul, the first king of Israel, will soon die for his sin which he committed against the Lord. He did not keep the word of the Lord. Therefore God had departed from him. King Saul went to ask counsel from a witch who had a familiar spirit. Read 1 Chronicles 10:13-14. (The same story is told in 1 Samuel chapters 28 and 31.)*

## Special Verses from 1 Chronicles

- 1 Chronicles 16:34**—"O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever."
- 1 Chronicles 18:6**—" . . . the LORD preserved David wherever he went."
- 1 Chronicles 22:16**—" . . . Arise and begin working, and the LORD be with you."
- 1 Chronicles 22:19**—"Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God. . . ."
- 1 Chronicles 28:9**—" . . . serve Him with a loyal heart and with a willing mind; for the LORD searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you; but if you forsake Him, He will cast you off forever."
- 1 Chronicles 29:5**—" . . . Who then is willing to consecrate himself this day to the LORD?"
- 1 Chronicles 29:11**—"Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head over all."
- 1 Chronicles 29:14**—" . . . all things come from You, and of Your own we have given You."
- 1 Chronicles 16:8-9**—"Oh, give thanks to the LORD! Call upon His name; make known His deeds among the peoples! Sing to Him, sing psalms to Him; talk of all His wondrous works."

## The Names of Jacob's Dozen Sons

The names of Jacob's sons are listed in 1 Chronicles 2:1-2. (See also page 39 for the complete list.)

**"Give to the LORD the glory due His name;  
bring an offering, and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD  
in the beauty of holiness!" —1 Chronicles 16:29**

# SECOND CHRONICLES

(36 chapters)

**WRITER—SAME AS FOR FIRST CHRONICLES.** Some think it was Ezra. This book is a supplement to 1 Kings and 2 Kings. It gives the history of Judah and Jerusalem from the reign of Solomon to the decree of Cyrus.

**Rehoboam** was the first king of the new **Southern Kingdom, JUDAH**

(1 Kings 11-14 and 2 Chronicles 10-12)

**Jeroboam** was the first king of the **Northern Kingdom, ISRAEL**

(1 Kings 11-14 and 2 Chronicles 10-13)

Solomon builds the temple in **chapters 3-4**. Solomon dedicates the temple in **chapters 5-7**. The book of 2 Chronicles records the sad story of departure from that temple and its worship.

In **chapter 26** King Uzziah begins to reign at age 16 and reigned 52 years in Jerusalem. As long as he sought the Lord he prospered. God helped him. Uzziah was a great king and leader. Inventions were made by his cunning men. King Uzziah's name spread far abroad; for God helped him marvellously till he was strong. **"But when he was strong his heart was lifted up, to his destruction, for he transgressed against the LORD his God by entering the temple of the LORD to burn incense on the altar of incense"** (26:16). Azariah, the chief priest, went in after him and withstood Uzziah. Uzziah grew angry with the priests that gathered. God struck him with leprosy. King Uzziah was a leper to the day of his death.

In **chapter 32** much is said about King Hezekiah. When God healed him, he became proud. **"But Hezekiah rendered not again according to the benefit done unto him; for his heart was lifted up: therefore there was wrath upon him, and upon Judah and Jerusalem"** (32:25, KJV). But then Hezekiah humbled himself for the pride of his heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. The verses following tell of Hezekiah's riches and honor. Verse 31 tells how God tested the heart of Hezekiah so He might know all that was in his heart.



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*Memorize the verse above (2 Chronicles 16:9a, KJV).*

## Other Special Verses in 2 Chronicles

**2 Chronicles 7:14**—"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

**2 Chronicles 13:12**—"... God Himself is with us for our captain..." (KJV).

**2 Chronicles 30:9**—"Turn again unto the LORD... for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away His face from you, if you return unto Him" (KJV).

**2 Chronicles 32:7**—"Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid nor dismayed..."

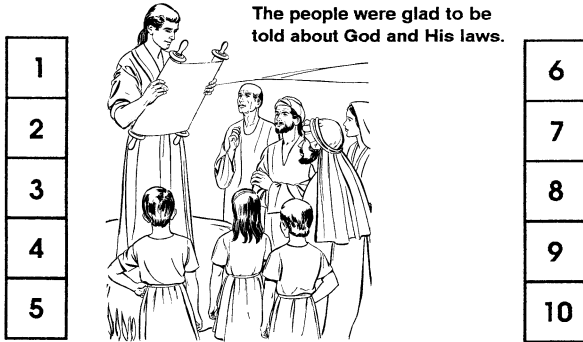
**"With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God, to help us and to fight our battles..." —2 Chronicles 32:8**



# EZRA

(10 chapters)

**WRITER—UNKNOWN.** Most scholars think it was Ezra, but that he was not the writer of the entire book. Ezra was a Jewish exile in Babylon and of priestly descent. Ezra 7:5 mentions he was a descendant of Aaron, the chief priest. Ezra was a scribe (7:6) and a priest (7:21). Scribes copied Scriptures as well as studying and interpreting the Bible. Ezra was a very godly man (7:10).



*“For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel” (Ezra 7:10).*

## Special Memory Verse

**Ezra 8:22**—“ . . . The hand of our God is upon all those for good who seek Him, but His power and His wrath are against all those who forsake Him.”

## Something to Do

Ezra 7:21 (KJV) has all the letters of the alphabet except the letter “J.” Can you find them? **“And I, even I Artaxerxes the king, do make a decree to all the treasurers which are beyond the river, that whatsoever Ezra the priest, the scribe of the law of the God of heaven, shall require of you, it be done speedily.”**

## Something to Think About

Ezra condemned mixed marriages. Read Ezra 9:1-2, 12-14 and Ezra 10:11-14. God did not want Israel to intermarry with the people of the land. Ezra had to separate those who had married pagan wives (10:16-17).

Every believer in Christ is a child of Abraham. Romans 2:28-29 says: **“For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is that circumcision which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly, and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.”** Galatians 3:28-29 says: **“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”** Isn’t this wonderful to know! Praise the Lord for our adoption into the great family of God. **“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus”** (Galatians 3:26). Since all believers, then, are considered to be Abraham’s seed, the same rules apply to us not to make marriages with “strangers of the land.” **“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers”** (2 Corinthians 6:14a).

# NEHEMIAH

(13 chapters)

**WRITER—UNCERTAIN.** Many scholars think it is an autobiography of Nehemiah. “Nehemiah” means “Jehovah comforts.” He started out being the cupbearer of King Artaxerxes (Nehemiah 1:11 and 2:1). The king gives him permission to go and rebuild the wall of Jerusalem (chapters 2, 4, and 6). The wall is dedicated in 12:27-43 with great rejoicing. Nehemiah was appointed governor of Judah (5:14), a position he held about twelve years.



*Nehemiah helps to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem (Nehemiah chapters 1-6).*

## The People Make a Special Covenant with God

(Read Nehemiah 10:29-39)

The people made seven special promises to be faithful to God:

- (1) **verse 30:** They would not give their daughters as wives to the people of the land, nor take their daughters for their sons.
- (2) **verse 31a:** They would keep the Sabbath day holy and would not buy anything from the people of the land on the Sabbath day or on any holy day.
- (3) **verse 31b:** They would observe the Sabbatic year (every 7th year). Read Leviticus 25.
- (4) **verses 32-33:** They would pay a special tax to take care of the house of God.
- (5) **verse 34:** They would supply wood to burn on the altar of the Lord in God's house.
- (6) **verses 35-38:** They would bring the firstfruits of everything (of the ground, of the fruit trees, of their sons, cattle, herds, flocks, etc.) to the house of God for the priests that minister there. Also they would bring the firstfruits of their dough, offerings, all kinds of trees, new wine, and oil to the priests as well as the tithes of their land for the Levites. The Levites in turn were to bring the tithe of the tithes to the house of God.
- (7) **verse 39:** They all promised not to neglect the house of their God.

## Special Verses in Nehemiah

**Nehemiah 2:20**—“ . . . The God of heaven Himself will prosper us; therefore we His servants will arise and build . . . .”

**Nehemiah 4:6**—“ . . . the people had a mind to work.”

**Nehemiah 4:20**—“ . . . Our God will fight for us.”

**Nehemiah 8:10**—“ . . . send portions to those for whom nothing is prepared . . . .”

**Nehemiah 9:6**—“You alone are the LORD; You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all things on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.”

**Nehemiah 9:17**—“ . . . You are God, ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abundant in kindness . . . .”

“ . . . the joy of the LORD is your strength.” —Nehemiah 8:10

# ESTHER

(10 chapters)

**WRITER—UNKNOWN.** The main topic is the deliverance of the Jews through Queen Esther, whom God raised up “for such a time as this” (Esther 4:14). This book does not mention the name of God, but a type of praying is implied by Queen Esther’s request that the Jews fast along with her for three days and nights to help save her people (4:16-17).

The word “**Esther**” means “star.” She was an orphan, adopted by her cousin, Mordecai, who took her as his own daughter. She was fair and beautiful (2:7).

**All the events in this book center around three special feasts:**

1. **The feast of King Ahasuerus.** (Another name for Ahasuerus was Xerxes, who ruled Persia 485-465 B.C.) This feast lasted 180 days (1:4). During this feast the former Queen Vashti is put away because she refuses to come and appear before the king (1:10-22). It was made clear that every man should rule in his own house (1:20-22).
2. **The feasts of Esther**—chapters 5-7. The evil character of Haman is revealed. God uses Esther to save her people.
3. **The feast of Purim**—chapter 9. This feast takes place on the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the twelfth month, which is called Adar on the Jewish calendar. Every year this feast reminds the Jews of their great deliverance from their enemies (9:17-28).



*Queen Esther was both brave and beautiful. She risked her life to save her people (chapters 4-8). “And if I perish, I perish!” (4:16b).*

**MEMORY VERSE: Esther 4:14b**—“ . . . who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

## Something to Think About

1. **God takes note of every action of man.** Mordecai had saved the king’s life (2:21-23). This act was forgotten and things went badly for Mordecai and his people (chapters 3-5), but in chapter 6 God intervenes and brings the king’s attention to Mordecai (6:1-12). We must likewise be patient. God will fight our battles and bring all things into judgment. The wicked will be brought down (chapter 7). God will cause the right to triumph (chapter 8). Mordecai becomes a great leader among his people and was next to king Ahasuerus (chapter 10).
2. **The wicked Haman triumphed only for a short time.** His high honor from the king (3:1) went to his head and pride took over. Thinking to destroy others, he himself was destroyed (7:10). Job 20:4-7 says: “Do you not know . . . that the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite is but for a moment? Though his haughtiness mounts up to the heavens, and his head reaches to the clouds, yet he will perish forever. . . .”
3. **Queen Esther faced dangers by choice in order to save her people.** We also must have the same dedication to serve the Lord Jesus and risk our lives to obey His commands. The souls of people are in great peril—those around us, our neighbors, friends, families, those that despise and hate us. Ask yourself: “What can I do to help rescue souls from perishing?”

Jesus Christ is building His church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matthew 16:18). [Read Matthew 16:25; Romans 14:8; and Revelation 2:10.]

**Always do what is right and trust the rest to God. “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” —Revelation 2:10b (KJV)**

# JOB

(42 chapters)

**WRITER—UNKNOWN, but probably Job himself.** The story of Job takes place in the land of Uz. Chapter 19 is Job's wonderful testimony of triumph over suffering. Though abused by those who pretended to be his friends, he still believed in God's goodness. Job is the first of the so-called poetical books of the Old Testament, the other four being Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

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Job was a man who loved God. One day Satan caused his riches, sons, and daughters to be taken away. He broke out with boils all over his body. Even his wife tempted him to curse God and die. Job kept true to God in all these trials and afflictions and did not sin. (Read chapters 1 and 2.)

Job's trials were not a punishment but a testing. The result is a new experience with the Lord. God sees the uprightness of Job's heart and blesses him with twice as much as he had before. Read chapter 42.

## Memory Verses

**Job 1:21**—" . . . The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."

**Job 13:15**—"Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. . . ."

**Job 19:25**—"I know that my Redeemer lives . . ."

**Job 23:10**—"But He knows the way that I take; when He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold."

**Job 28:28**—" . . . Behold, the fear of the LORD, that is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding."

**Job 23:12b**—" . . . I have treasured the words of His mouth more than my necessary food."

## Something to Remember

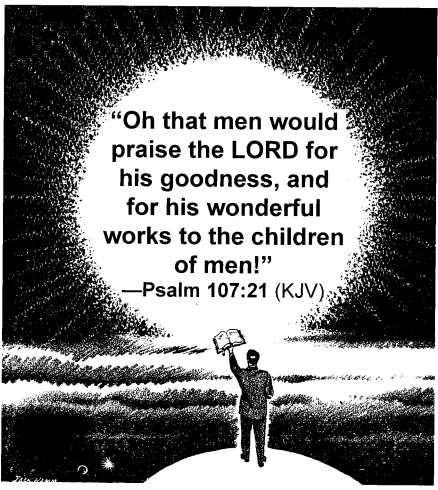
The Lord delivered Job from all his trials. In the New Testament, we hear the words of the great apostle Paul experiencing triumph over suffering also: "And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!" (2 Timothy 4:18). Job forever brings glory to the Lord by expressing his faith in the midst of great affliction.

**"For I know that my Redeemer lives, and He shall stand  
[at the latter day] on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed,  
this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God." —Job 19:25-26**

# PSALMS

(150 chapters)

**WRITER**—the principle writer is David. We often speak of the Psalms as “the Psalms of David.” However, in the titles we notice that some of the psalms are ascribed to others: 12 to Asaph; 11 to the sons of Korah; 2 to Solomon (72, 127); one to Moses (90); one to Ethan (89); 50 are anonymous. In the titles 73 psalms are ascribed to David; it is thought the anonymous psalms are also his.

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## The Book of Psalms Is the Hymn Book of the Bible

It is also the national hymn book of Israel. The main contents of the book are praise, prayer, and worship. We would do well to read in the Psalms every day.

### There Is Great Power in Praise

**Psalm 17:15**—“ . . . I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.”

**Psalm 34:1**—“I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.”

**Psalm 37:3**—“Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed” (KJV).

**Psalm 37:4**—“Delight yourself also in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.”

**Psalm 37:5**—“Commit your way to the LORD, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.”

**Psalm 50:23**—“Whoever offers praise glorifies Me; and to Him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God.”

**Psalm 51:10**—“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me” (KJV).

**Psalm 100:2**—“Serve the LORD with gladness; come before His presence with singing.”

**Psalm 107:1**—“Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever.”

**Psalm 107:2**—“Let the redeemed of the LORD say so . . . .”

**Psalm 124:8**—“Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth.”

“Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!” —Psalm 150:6

# PROVERBS

(31 chapters)

**WRITER**—A large portion is credited to Solomon. The chief purpose of Proverbs is to give moral instruction, especially to young people. Wisdom and knowledge begin with the fear of the Lord. Read Proverbs 1:7 and Proverbs 9:10. Also the fear of the Lord is to hate evil (8:13) and the fear of the Lord is a fountain of life (14:27). **“The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good”** (Proverbs 15:3, KJV).

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*The young man above is hiding the Word of God in his heart.  
“Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those  
who put their trust in Him” (Proverbs 30:5).*

**Proverbs 7** warns the young man against a wicked woman. Her house is the way to hell.

**Proverbs 31:10-31** tells what a good woman is like. A good wife will do her husband good all the days of her life.

**Seven things God hates** are listed in Proverbs 6:16-19: (1) a proud look, (2) a lying tongue, (3) hands that shed innocent blood, (4) a heart that thinks up wicked imaginations, (5) feet that are swift in running to mischief, (6) a false witness who speaks lies, and (7) one who sows discord among brethren.

## Special Verses

**Proverbs 7:2**—“Keep my commandments and live . . . .”

**Proverbs 11:30**—“ . . . he who wins souls is wise.”

**Proverbs 15:1**—“A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger” (KJV).

**Proverbs 16:24**—“Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones” (KJV).

**Proverbs 16:32**—“He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.”

**Proverbs 17:17**—“A friend loves at all times . . . .”

**Proverbs 17:22**—“A merry heart does good, like medicine . . . .”

**Proverbs 18:10**—“The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe” (KJV).

**Proverbs 19:17**—“He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will He pay him again” (KJV).

## Something to Remember

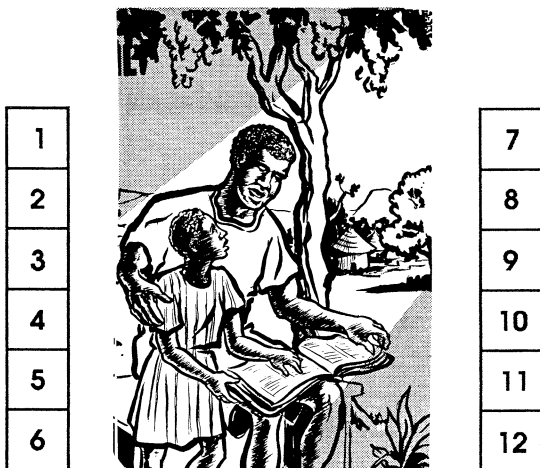
**Proverbs chapter 23** has much to say about strong drink. Strong drink produces sorrow, contentions, babbling, wounds without cause, and redness of eyes (verses 29-30). Wine, when it is red, bites like a serpent and stings like an adder (poisonous snake) (verses 31-32). It fills the mind with impure thoughts and harsh talk (verse 33). It brings accidents and danger (verse 35). It is habit-forming (verse 35). When the drinker wakes up, he desires to “seek it yet again.” So beware of strong drink.

**“Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure,  
and whether it be right.”** —Proverbs 20:11 (KJV)

# ECCLESIASTES

(12 chapters)

**WRITER—SOLOMON.** “Ecclesiastes” means “preacher.” King Solomon looks back over his life and tells what he thinks about it. Even though he became rich and had power and wisdom, yet he had done many foolish things. He often repeats, “All is vanity.” From this book we learn that, apart from God, life is truly vain and full of disappointment. We can never find happiness in “things.” We can find true happiness only by putting our trust in God and doing His will. Only God satisfies.



*The whole duty of man is to fear God and keep His commandments.  
(See Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.)*

## Special Verses from Ecclesiastes

**Ecclesiastes 3:13—**“ . . . every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor—it is the gift of God.”

**Ecclesiastes 3:14—**“ . . . whatever God does, it shall be forever. Nothing can be added to it, and nothing taken from it. God does it, that men should fear before Him.”

**Ecclesiastes 4:9-10—**“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.”

**Ecclesiastes 5:2—**“Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore let your words be few.”

**Ecclesiastes 5:4—**“When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it . . . . Pay what you have vowed.”

**Ecclesiastes 7:1—**“A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of one’s birth.”

**Ecclesiastes 9:10—**“Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might . . . .”

**Ecclesiastes 9:18—**“Wisdom is better than weapons of war; but one sinner destroys much good.”

**Ecclesiastes 11:1—**“Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days.”

**Ecclesiastes 12:14—**“ . . . God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil” (KJV).

**“Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth . . . .”**

**—Ecclesiastes 12:1**

# THE SONG OF SOLOMON

(8 chapters)

**WRITER—SOLOMON.** “Solomon” means “peace.” The theme of this beautiful poem is the tender love of the bridegroom and the bride. **The key verse is 2:16**—“My beloved is mine, and I am his. . . .” The purpose of this book is to glorify marriage and wedded love and to show the glorious relationship between Christ and His Bride. Song of Solomon 6:3 is very similar to 2:16. Compare them.



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*“I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine” (6:3a).*

In Ecclesiastes 9:9 a husband is told to “live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your . . . life which He has given you under the sun . . . .”

## Beautiful Portions to Memorize

**Song of Solomon 2:4—**

“He brought me to the banquetting house, and his banner over me was love.”

**Song of Solomon 2:11-12—**

“For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard . . . .”

**Song of Solomon 8:6-7—**

“ . . . love is as strong as death . . . . Many waters cannot quench love, nor can the floods drown it. . . .”

## Something to Think About

The Church in the New Testament is often referred to as the bride of Christ. Christ came to purchase His bride and win His bride to Himself. Christ is the bridegroom. When He returns as King of kings, the marriage supper of the Lamb will take place and the bridegroom (Christ) will take His bride to live forever with Him in His eternal home. Revelation chapter 21 speaks of the beautiful home prepared for the bride. Let us not miss going into the marriage supper of the Lamb when He comes. Read Matthew chapter 25.

**“I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys.” —Song of Solomon 2:1**



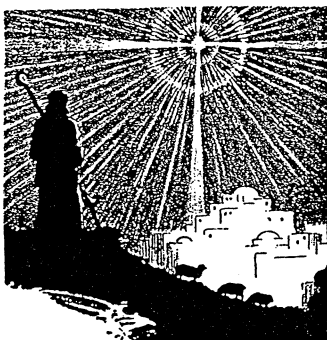
# ISAIAH

(66 chapters)

**WRITER—ISAIAH.** His name means “Jehovah saves.” He is generally regarded as the greatest of the Old Testament prophets. There are seventeen prophetic books in the Old Testament. They are subdivided into major and minor prophets—because of their length, not their importance. God put so much importance upon prophecy that it occupies about one third of the whole Bible. Through prophecy God reveals His plans to His children.

The special “jewel” in Isaiah is chapter 53 because it pictures Christ, our suffering Redeemer. It would be well to memorize it.

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*The Savior is promised (Isaiah 7:14).*

## Special Verses in Isaiah

- Isaiah 1:18**—“Come now, and let us reason together,” says the LORD, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow . . . .”
- Isaiah 6:8**—“ . . . Here am I ! Send me.”
- Isaiah 7:14**—“ . . . Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”
- Isaiah 9:6**—“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
- Isaiah 26:3**—“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee” (KJV).
- Isaiah 53:5-7**—“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.”
- Isaiah 53:9-10a**—“And they made His grave with the wicked—and with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him . . . .”
- Isaiah 53:11a, 12b**—“He shall see the travail of His soul, and be satisfied. . . . because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”
- Isaiah 55:11**—“So shall My Word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”

**“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.”**  
—Isaiah 40:8

# JEREMIAH

(52 chapters)

**WRITER—JEREMIAH**, the “weeping prophet.” He is referred to in Daniel 9:2 and also in Matthew 2:17. Jeremiah, born in a priestly family, whose father’s name was Hilkiah, was ordained to be a prophet *before* his birth. Jeremiah 1:4-5 reads like this: “**Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: ‘Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you; and I ordained you a prophet to the nations.’**”

The Lord’s call to Jeremiah came in the 13th year of good king Josiah’s reign. Some say Jeremiah was about 20 or 21 years old. Jeremiah began to make excuses for not accepting the call, such as: (1) his youth, (2) his inexperience, and (3) he was not a good speaker (Jeremiah 1:6). The Lord’s reply is found in verses 7-10. The Lord will always be faithful.

Jeremiah’s commission was worldwide, including his own country as well as the kingdoms of Egypt, Ammon, Moab, Tyre, and Sidon. The Lord put words into his mouth to speak to the people. The book of Jeremiah is full of messages from God, each spoken to fit the need of the moment. Jeremiah endured much suffering.

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*Jeremiah the prophet was cast into a dungeon where he sank into the mire.  
An Ethiopian who worked in the king’s house told the king.  
At the king’s command Jeremiah is taken out.*

## Special Verses in Jeremiah

**Jeremiah 1:8**—“Do not be afraid of their faces, for I am with you to deliver you,” says the LORD.”

**Jeremiah 7:23**—“... Obey My voice, and I will be your God . . . .”

**Jeremiah 17:7**—“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, and whose hope is the LORD.”

**Jeremiah 17:10**—“I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.”

**Jeremiah 29:13**—“And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

**Jeremiah 30:17**—“For I will restore health to you and heal you of your wounds,” says the LORD . . . .”

**Jeremiah 33:3**—“Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.”

**Jeremiah 42:6**—“... We will obey the voice of the LORD our God . . . .”

A seeking soul and the seeking Savior are bound to find each other!

Memorize Jeremiah 29:13 above and Luke 19:10.

**“O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD!” —Jeremiah 22:29**

# LAMENTATIONS

(5 chapters)

**WRITER—JEREMIAH.** Key verse—1:12. Jerusalem was made desolate and Jeremiah sat weeping. He had been an eyewitness of the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians. This destruction was brought about by sin and rebellion of God's people. This book is not all sorrow, however, for in Lamentations 3:22-27 the light breaks through and we find the grace of God shining forth. The Lord is good to the soul that seeks Him.



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*The refuge of a man that has seen affliction is to hope in God and quietly wait for His salvation. Read Lamentations 3:21-31.*

## Special Verses in Lamentations

**Lamentations 1:12**—"Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? . . ."

**Lamentations 3:22-23**—"It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is Thy faithfulness" (KJV).

**Lamentations 3:25**—"The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him."

## HOW TO FIND ETERNAL LIFE

(Seven steps)

### 1. Admit you are a sinner

**Romans 3:23**—"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

### 2. Come to Jesus Christ

**Hebrews 7:25**—" . . . He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him . . ."

**John 6:37**—" . . . the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."

### 3. Repent of your sins

(Repent means "sorry enough to quit.")

**Acts 3:19**—"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out . . ."

### 4. Confess your sins to

**Jesus** (To confess means "tell, admit, own up.")

**1 John 1:9**—"If we con-

fess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

### 5. Forsake your sins

(Forsake means "give up, leave alone.")

**Proverbs 28:13**—"He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."

### 6. Believe on Jesus

**Christ Romans 10:9**—

" . . . if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."

### 7. Receive Jesus Christ

**John 1:12**—"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become

the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" (KJV).



Dear Lord Jesus,  
Thank You for dying on the cross to take away my sins. I am sorry for all the wrong things I have done. I ask You to please come into my heart and live in my heart forever. I am trusting You right now to make my heart clean and I take You to be my very own Lord and Savior.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

**John 3:16**—"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (KJV).

# EZEKIEL

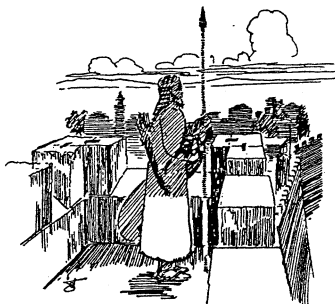
(48 chapters)

**WRITER—EZEKIEL.** His name means “God will strengthen.” He was a priest and the son of Buzi. Ezekiel ministered to the captives of Israel in Babylon, where he also had been taken captive about eight years after Daniel had been taken there and about 12 years before Jerusalem was destroyed. His call and commission are in chapters 2 and 3.

Among the many sins of Israel were: (1) worshipping the sun (8:16); (2) putting the branch to their nose (8:17); (3) going after idols and images (chapter 6); (4) making their sons pass through the fire (20:31); (5) their (false) prophets not standing in the gap (13:2-5 and 22:30); (6) committing all the abominations of the wicked (18:11-13); (7) despising holy things, and profaning the Sabbath day (22:8); (8) shedding blood and defiling women (22:9-12). Therefore the Lord scattered them among the various nations (22:15).

**Why God sends famine to a land—**“Son of man, when a land sins against Me by persistent unfaithfulness, I will stretch out My hand against it; I will cut off its supply of bread, send famine on it, and cut off man and beast from it” (Ezekiel 14:13).

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*God made Ezekiel a watchman to Israel. He was to warn the wicked and the righteous not to sin (Ezekiel chapters 3, 18, and 33).*

## Special Verses from Ezekiel

**Ezekiel 3:19—**“Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul.”

**Ezekiel 3:21—**“ . . . If you warn the righteous man that the righteous should not sin, and he does not sin, he shall surely live because he took warning; also you will have delivered your soul.”

**Ezekiel 18:30b—**“Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin.”

**Ezekiel 18:31b—**“Get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die . . .?”

**Good news—Israel shall turn again to the Lord. He will be their God.**

Read Ezekiel 34:13-16, 24-31. Also read Ezekiel 36:33-38; 37:14, 21, 23-28.

In 1948 Israel became a nation. This nation now exists officially. God's time is always revealed through His dealing with the Jews. Watch the Jews. When they move, we know God is getting ready to act.

**God's promise to Israel: Ezekiel 34:30—**“ ‘Thus they shall know that I, the LORD their God, am with them, and that they, the house of Israel, are My people,’ says the Lord GOD.”

**“The soul who sins shall die.” —Ezekiel 18:20a**

# DANIEL

(12 chapters)

**WRITER—DANIEL.** His name means “God is my judge.” He was in the first group of captives taken from Jerusalem to Babylon (606 B.C.) and of royal blood (Daniel 1:1-7). Daniel purposed in his heart to keep a clean heart and body (1:8-20). He was true to his own religious convictions, yet loyal to his king, who trusted him with the affairs of the empire. [“Pulse,” mentioned in 1:12 (KJV), refers to foods such as peas, beans, and lentils. No doubt the king’s meat had been offered to idols. Daniel practiced total abstinence (1:12).]

Daniel’s career is similar to Joseph’s. He was promoted to high office (2:48). He maintained his spiritual life in the midst of a heathen court (6:10).

**The theme of the book of Daniel** is that God is sovereign over the affairs of men in all ages. Even pagan kings admitted to this (Nebuchadnezzar in 2:47 and 4:37 and Darius in 6:26-27 when he found Daniel delivered from the lions).

## The book of Daniel divides into two parts:

### PART 1—HISTORICAL (chapters 1-6)

- Daniel 1**—The faithful Hebrew children
- Daniel 2**—Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of the great image
- Daniel 3**—Faithful Jews in the fiery furnace
- Daniel 4**—King Nebuchadnezzar is humbled
- Daniel 5**—Belshazzar and the handwriting on the wall
- Daniel 6**—Daniel in the lion’s den

### PART 2—PROPHETICAL (chapters 7-12)

- Daniel 7**—Vision of 4 beasts and little horn
- Daniel 8**—Vision of the ram (Persia) and the rough goat (Greece)
- Daniel 9**—Daniel’s prayer and Gabriel’s message concerning the 70 weeks
- Daniel 10**—Vision of the glory of God
- Daniel 11**—Prophecies concerning “the time of the end”
- Daniel 12**—The great tribulation and the resurrection

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*Through envy and jealousy a trap was set for Daniel which resulted in Daniel’s being thrown into the lion’s den. God sent an angel to close the lions’ mouths. King Darius wrote to all people, nations, and languages that the God of Daniel is the living God and His kingdom cannot be destroyed (chapter 6).*

## Special Verses in Daniel

- Daniel 3:17-18**—“ . . . Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us . . . But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”
- Daniel 7:18**—“The saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even forever and ever.”
- Daniel 11:32**—“ . . . the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.”
- Daniel 12:3**—“Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness like the stars forever and ever.”

**Daniel prayed three times a day on his knees and gave thanks.—Daniel 6:10**

# HOSEA

(14 chapters)

**WRITER—HOSEA**, which means “salvation” or “deliverance.” Hosea is the first of the twelve books called Minor Prophets. (The back cover lists them.) Hosea, whose father was Beerī, was called to be a prophet to the ten tribes that formed the **Northern Kingdom** named “Israel.” [“Judah” refers to the tribe of Judah and Benjamin that formed the **Southern Kingdom**.]

Hosea had no college or seminary training. He was a layman with a very sad home life. He married a girl unworthy of him. God used this marriage as a sign to Israel that in spite of their sinfulness they were still an object of His love.

Gomer, Hosea’s wife, ran away from home, leaving Hosea to care for two little sons and a daughter. He tried to win her back but she would not return. Hosea now understands how God yearns over Israel with tender love. God was married to unfaithful Israel just as Hosea was married to an unfaithful bride.



*God chooses Hosea to preach repentance to Israel (the Northern tribes). His message is: “Return to the Lord” (chapter 6). Israel had forgotten her Maker (Hosea 8:14). Israel is warned to seek the Lord (Hosea 10:12).*

## Hosea 14 Is a Great Chapter for Backsliders

**Verse 1**—“O Israel, return unto the LORD thy God; for thou hast fallen by thine iniquity” (KJV). (Iniquity means sin—anything displeasing to God.)

**Verse 2**—“ . . . Say to Him, ‘Take away all iniquity; receive us graciously, for we will offer the sacrifices of our lips.’ ”

## The Lord Will Heal the Backslider When Penitent

**Hosea 14:4-6**—“I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely, for My anger has turned away from him. I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall grow like the lily, and lengthen his roots like Lebanon. His branches shall spread; his beauty shall be like an olive tree, and his fragrance like Lebanon.”

## Memorize These Two Verses

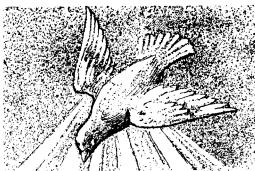
**Hosea 6:1**—“Come, and let us return to the LORD; . . . He will heal us . . .”

**Hosea 14:9**—“ . . . the ways of the LORD are right; the righteous walk in them.”

# JOEL

(3 chapters)

**WRITER—JOEL.** His name means, “whose God is Jehovah.” National repentance and its blessings are stressed. Joel, called the “prophet of religious revival,” is called to minister to Judah (the Southern tribes). “**The day of the Lord**” is often mentioned: Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, and 31; and 3:14. The Lord will dwell in Zion, His holy mountain, and Jerusalem will be holy with no strangers passing through (Joel 3:17, 20, and 21).



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*Joel is the first to prophesy the outpouring of the Spirit upon all flesh.*

“And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; and also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days” (Joel 2:28-29).

This prophecy was fulfilled at Pentecost (see page 44):

“But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days,’ says God, ‘that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy.’”

—Acts 2:16-18

## Memory Verses

**Joel 2:12**—“ ‘Now, therefore,’ says the LORD, ‘turn to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.’”

**Joel 2:13**—“So rend your heart, and not your garments; return to the LORD your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness . . . .”

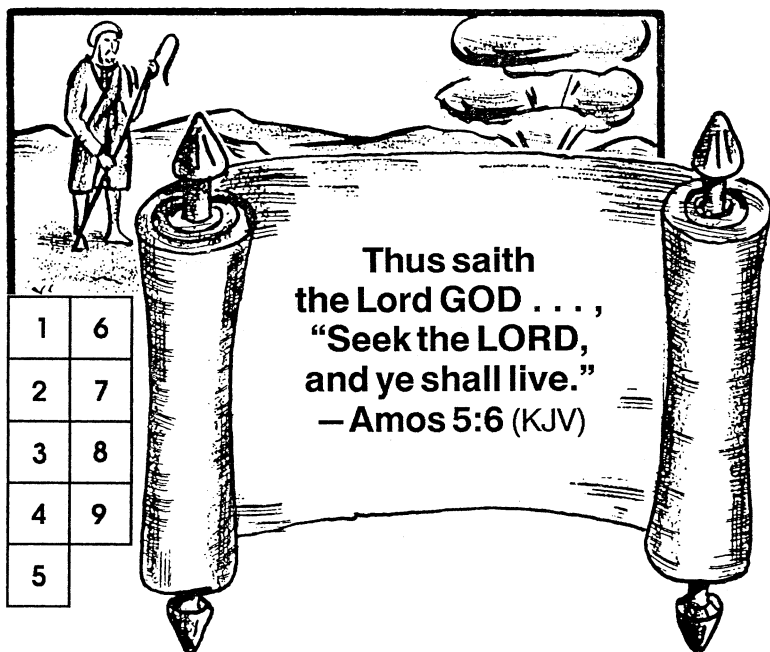
**Joel 2:27**—“ . . . I am the LORD your God and there is no other. My people shall never be put to shame.”

“ . . . Whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved . . . .”— Joel 2:32

# AMOS

(9 chapters)

**WRITER—AMOS.** His name means “burden” or “burden-bearer.” He had been a herdsman and a gatherer of sycamore fruit (Amos 7:14). God calls him to leave his flock and to go and prophesy to His people Israel (7:15). Israel is the Northern Kingdom.



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*Amos is called to warn Israel of their terrible sins.*

The time will come when there will be a famine of hearing the words of God. Amos 8:11-12 says—“Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord GOD, “that I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the LORD, but shall not find it.”

### Special Verses in Amos

**Amos 3:3**—“Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?”

**Amos 3:7**—“... the Lord GOD ... reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.”

### Two Verses to Memorize

**Amos 5:6**—“Seek the LORD, and ye shall live . . . ” (KJV).

**Amos 5:14**—“Seek good and not evil, that you may live; so the LORD God of hosts will be with you . . . .”

“Hate the evil, and love the good . . . .” —Amos 5:15 (KJV)



# OBADIAH

(1 chapter)

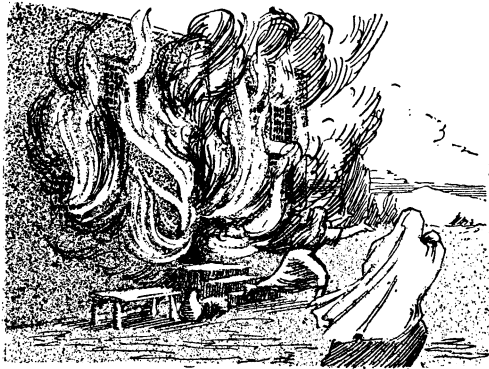
**WRITER—OBADIAH**, which means “worshipper of Jehovah.” There are only 21 verses in Obadiah. The land of Edom is doomed. The people were descendants of Esau, the brother of Jacob, and though related to the people of Israel and Judah, they sided with their enemies. The people of Edom watched strangers carry away the people of Jerusalem as captives and were glad. They even stood in the crossway to prevent their escape and stole their goods when they were in trouble.

However, God takes special care of the Jews. Anyone who persecutes them will have certain punishment.

God has given us a special prayer request in Psalm 122:6 (KJV)—

**“Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee.”**

1



*Obadiah was chosen to warn the descendants of Esau (called Edomites) because of their hatred and cruel treatment of the Jews.*

Edom shall be utterly destroyed and driven from their rocky home, where they dwelt in the clefts of the rock—high up like the nest of an eagle. Read verses 3-10. Verse 10 declares they shall be cut off forever.

The Edomites lost their existence as a nation about 150 B.C., and their name perished when Jerusalem was captured by the Romans.

## **God's Judgment on Edom Should Warn Nations Today**

Any nation oppressing Israel will bring down God's judgment. God says concerning Israel—“ . . . I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed” (Genesis 12:3, KJV).

### **Memory Verse**

**Obadiah, verse 15**—“ . . . as thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee: thy reward shall return upon thine own head” (KJV).

**“The pride of your heart has deceived you . . .” —Obadiah, verse 3**

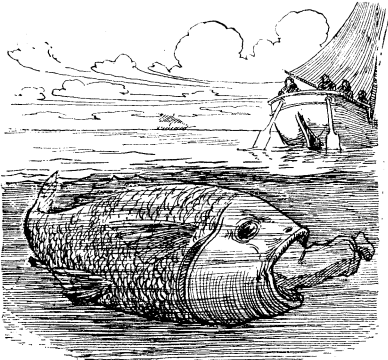
# JONAH

(4 chapters)

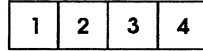
**WRITER**—**JONAH**, which means “a dove, one who flees from all unpleasantness.” He was a native of Gath-hepher (2 Kings 14:25) near Nazareth, the home of Jesus. Jonah was an unwilling missionary to the non-Jewish people of Nineveh. He was a mixture of strength and weakness, but became obedient after severe chastisement.

## An Outline of Jonah

**Jonah 1**—**Jonah runs from God.** He takes a ship at Joppa to flee to Tarshish. A storm arises. God uses His elements such as wind and rain to chastise, correct, or show mercy (Job 37:9-13). At last, in order to save the ship, Jonah was thrown overboard.



**Jonah 1:17**—“Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.”



**Jonah 2:10**—“So the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.”

**Jonah 2**—**Jonah runs to God.** He prays from the fish’s belly in his affliction, “out of the belly of hell” (verse 2). God heard his voice. Verse 7 says—“When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the LORD; and my prayer went up to You, into Your holy temple.” Jonah makes a vow to God in verse 9.

**Jonah 3**—**Jonah runs with God.** Jonah learned obedience to God’s will the hard way. He then went to that great city of Nineveh with God’s message—“Yet 40 days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” The whole city from the king downward covered themselves with sackcloth, cried to God, and turned from their evil way. “. . . God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that He had said that He would do unto them; and He did it not” (verse 10, KJV).

**Jonah 4**—**Jonah runs ahead of God.** Jonah is displeased because what he preached under God’s direction did not come to pass. He was too concerned about his own reputation (verses 2-3). He should have been glad the people repented and were spared.

## The Sign Given to This Generation

Matthew 12:38-41; Luke 11:29-32

Jesus Christ regarded the story of Jonah as a fact. He referred to Jonah as a “sign” of His own resurrection and deity. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (after being in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights) is the greatest “sign” or “proof” that Jesus Christ is truly God. No one else in history had power to lay down his life and to take it up again. Read John 10:15-30. Truly, Christ’s death was no accident. It was in His plan so He could save us.

“ . . . Salvation is of the LORD.”—Jonah 2:9

# MICAH

(7 chapters)

**WRITER**—MICAH, which means “Who is like Jehovah?” He was a native of Moresheth in the territory of Judah, but he spoke to both Judah and Israel. His anointing is mentioned in Micah 3:8.

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## Micah condemned specific sins:

1. Idolatry—Micah 1:7; 5:13
2. Evil plans and devices—2:1
3. Covetousness—2:2
4. Greed among priests and prophets—3:11
5. Witchcraft—5:12
6. Dishonesty—6:10-12
7. Universal corruption—7:2-4
8. Treachery—7:5-6

*Micah was a prophet of the common people.*

Micah prophesied concerning Samaria, the capital of Israel, and Jerusalem, the capital of Judah. His main burden was for Judah, denouncing the social evils of that day, especially the unfair treatment of the poor by the rich.

The Northern Kingdom of Israel was taken into captivity during Micah's lifetime because Israel would not listen to the prophets. Judah did, and was spared for 150 years. National sins lead to national downfall.

## No Human or Animal Sacrifices Can Atone for Sin

Micah 6:7-8—“Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams or ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?” Even the blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sin (Hebrews 10:4).

## Christ's Kingdom and Place of Birth Are Foretold

Read Micah 5:1-7. Verse 2—“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” Galatians 4:4—“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law” —to redeem those who were under the law. Read 1 Peter 1:18-21. We are redeemed by the blood of Christ. (See also Revelation 5:9 and Colossians 1:14.)

## Something to Remember

Bethlehem was a tiny town, but out of it came a great event—the birth of Jesus Christ. We must remember God wants to use us, too, even though we may come from a tiny place. What counts with God is not whether a thing be big or small but whether we are totally committed to Him, have our hearts purified by faith (Acts 15:9), and obey His truth (1 Peter 1:22).

**God can pardon our sins and cast them into the depths of the sea.**

—Micah 7:18-19

# NAHUM

(3 chapters)

**WRITER—NAHUM.** His name means “compassionate” or “full of comfort.” The main theme is the destruction of Nineveh. The purpose of this book was to pronounce divine vengeance upon this bloody city and to console or comfort Judah with promises of future deliverance (Nahum 3:1; 1:13-15).



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*God is sending Nahum to declare His righteous judgment upon Nineveh, the city that Jonah warned.*

Nineveh has come to a complete and deliberate defiance of the living God. In Jonah’s day they had repented in “dust and ashes.” Now they are guilty of the very sins of which they had once repented.

**The two sides of God’s character are shown in Jonah and Nahum:**

(1) **In Jonah**—Love and great kindness and repenting of the evil He said He would do to Nineveh when He saw they turned from their evil ways.

(2) **In Nahum**—The holiness of God, who must deal with sin. This holy judge is just, but His Spirit will not always strive with man (Genesis 6:3).

The message of Nahum shows what God will do with a wicked and rebellious people. He will destroy them utterly (Nahum 1:2, 6).

## Memory Verses

**Nahum 1:3a**—“The LORD is slow to anger and great in power.”

**Nahum 1:7**—“The LORD is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and He knows those who trust in Him.”

## Grateful Acknowledgment

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**Please note:** *My Scripture Memory Book—Volume 1* is available upon request as the Lord provides for production and mailing costs. Write to:

**World Missionary Press, Inc., P.O. Box 120, New Paris, IN 46553 U.S.A.**

# HABAKKUK

(3 chapters)

**WRITER—HABAKKUK** (pronounced huh-BACK-kuhk). His name means “the embraced one.” The theme is “The just shall live by faith.” Habakkuk lived in the Chaldean period because in Habakkuk 1:5-11 he receives a reply that the Lord’s plan is to use the Chaldeans as the terrible instrument of bringing judgment upon Judah for her wicked sins. Judah was full of lawlessness and tyranny. The righteous were oppressed (1:4, 13) and Judah was worshipping idols (2:18-19). It was a dark day for Judah—to be corrected by a people more wicked than they.



*Habakkuk was not only a prophet but also one of the Levitical choristers in the temple and helped in the arranging of the services.*

This book is a dialogue between Jehovah God and Habakkuk. Both conversations are recorded. The book closes with Habakkuk’s expression of confidence in God. Chapter 3 records the beautiful prayer of Habakkuk, ending with his faith and joy in God even when things were going from bad to worse.

## Special Memory Verses from Habakkuk

**Habakkuk 2:4**—“ . . . the just shall live by his faith.”

**Habakkuk 2:14**—“ . . . The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.”

**Habakkuk 3:17-18**—“Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls— yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation.”

## Something to Think About

Habakkuk 2:4 is of great significance in the history of the Reformation. A young monk named Martin Luther, who had been crawling up the Sancta Scala in Rome, rose to his feet and proclaimed, “The just shall live by his faith.” This started Luther on a great crusade which brought about the Reformation (salvation is not by works). Habakkuk 2:4 is quoted in the New Testament three times—Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; and Hebrews 10:38.

**“The LORD God is my strength . . .” —Habakkuk 3:19**

# ZEPHANIAH

(3 chapters)

**WRITER**—ZEPHANIAH, a direct descendant of King Hezekiah (Zephaniah 1:1). He prophesied during the reign of Josiah, king of Judah (1:1) near the beginning of Josiah's reign, before the religious revival which swept over the kingdom at that time (2 Kings chapters 22 and 23).

“Zephaniah” means “Jehovah protects,” or “he whom Jehovah has hidden.”



*The prophet Zephaniah warns Jerusalem of its fall.*

## Things We Learn from Zephaniah

1. **God is both loving and severe.** See Zephaniah 1:2 for God's severity and Zephaniah 3:17 for His lovingkindness.
2. **Zephaniah showed three things:** (a) a faithful remnant would be delivered from captivity; (b) the heathen shall be converted; and (c) one day man would be able to worship God anywhere, not only in Jerusalem. Read Zephaniah 2:11 and John 4:20-24.

## Outline of Zephaniah

1. “**The Great Day of the Lord**” is foreshadowed by God's judgment on Judah. Read Zephaniah 1:1-18 and 2:1-3.
2. **The final judgment on all the nations** is foreshadowed by God's judgment on adjacent nations and on Jerusalem. Read Zephaniah 2:4-15 and 3:1-8.
3. **Israel will be restored** after the judgments are past. Read Zephaniah 3: 9-20.

## Special Memory Verses

**Zephaniah 2:3**—“Seek the LORD, all you meek of the earth, . . . Seek righteousness, seek humility. It may be that you will be hidden in the day of the LORD's anger.”

**Zephaniah 3:17**—Did you know the Lord sings? “The LORD your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you in His love, He will rejoice over you with singing.”

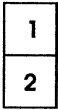
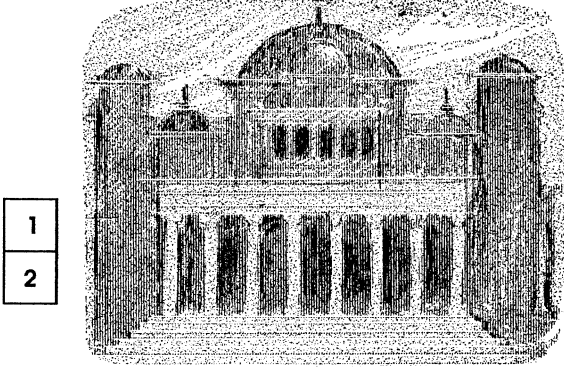
“ . . . I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth . . . ”  
—Zephaniah 3:20 (KJV)

# HAGGAI

(2 chapters)

**WRITER**—HAGGAI, called “the prophet of the temple.” His name means “my feast.” The message of this book is “God first”—in life and service. God sent Haggai to rebuke, reform, encourage, and help finish rebuilding the temple, “the Lord’s house,” in Jerusalem.

**Key verse is Haggai 1:8**—“ ‘Go up to the mountain, and bring wood, and build the house; and I will take pleasure in it, and I will be glorified, saith the LORD” (KJV).



*The temple of the Lord had been neglected.*

## Haggai’s message was:

- 1. A cutting rebuke**, Haggai 1:2-11. It is not right that the house of the Lord should lie in waste and every man have his own house with ceilings in which to live. Verses 10 and 11 show what God did because His people let His house lie in waste and get so run down. He stopped the dew from heaven. He stopped the earth from bearing her fruit. God called for a drought on the land, the mountains, the corn, the new wine, the oil, . . . on men, the cattle, and on all the work of their hands.
- 2. Words of encouragement**, Haggai 1:12-15.
- 3. Inspiring promises**, Haggai 2:3-9. Verse 4 says, “ ‘ . . . I am with you,’ says the LORD of hosts.” Verse 9 says, “ ‘The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former,’ says the LORD of hosts. ‘And in this place I will give peace,’ says the LORD of hosts.”
- 4. A reminder of their failure and unworthiness to build the house for the Lord**, Haggai 2:10-19.
- 5. A prediction of doom and a commendation of Zerubbabel as God’s chosen instrument**, Haggai 2:20-23.

## What Is Your Place of Worship Like?

Is the place where you worship kept clean and neat? Is the “house of the Lord” as nice as the house in which you live? To love the Lord properly we should at least honor Him with a place of worship equal to or above what the members of the congregation have as houses to live in day by day.

## Memory Verse

**Haggai 2:4**:—“ . . . be strong, all you people of the land . . . and work; for I am with you . . . .”

**We are to behave ourselves in the house of God.—1 Timothy 3:15**

# ZECHARIAH

(14 chapters)

**WRITER**—ZECHARIAH, son of Berechiah (1:1). His name means “Jehovah remembers.” He lived at the same time as Haggai and joined him in arousing the Jews to rebuild the temple at Jerusalem (see Ezra 6:14).

Zechariah saw a wonderful vision of Jerusalem under the Messiah. He was only a young man at the time of this prophecy (Zechariah 2:4). He saw the coming of the kingly Messiah and the dawning of a wonderful day for Zion (Zechariah 8:3-5, 12-13). Also read Zechariah 14:7-11.



*The Angel of the Lord speaks to Zechariah.*

Zechariah not only saw a vision of the kingly Messiah coming the first time (9:9) in lowliness and riding on a donkey, but he also saw Him being crucified (12:10) and forsaken (13:7). The Messiah was bringing salvation (9:9).

## Visions of the Future Foreseen in Chapter 14

**Zechariah 14:2-5**—The battle of Armageddon is foreseen, when all nations shall be gathered against Jerusalem. The Lord Himself shall come to fight against those nations. His feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives. The saints come with Him. (See Zechariah 12:9 also.)

**Zechariah 14:9-11**—The Lord shall be king over all the earth, and Jerusalem will be safely inhabited.

**Zechariah 14:12**—Those who fought against Jerusalem will be punished. “Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth” (KJV).

**Zechariah 14:17**: Families of the earth who do not come to worship the Lord will have no rain.

**Zechariah 14:18-19**—A plague will come upon any family of Egypt or of any nation that does not come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

**Zechariah 14:20**—On the bells of the horses shall be engraved, “Holiness to the Lord.”

## Special Verses

**Zechariah 7:9-10**—“Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and show mercy and compassions every man to his brother: and oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart” (KJV).

## Memory Verses

**Zechariah 8:16**—“ . . . Speak each man the truth to his neighbor.”

**Zechariah 4:6**—“ . . . ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ says the LORD of hosts.”

“ . . . Who has despised the day of small things?” —Zechariah 4:10a



# MALACHI

(4 chapters)

**WRITER—MALACHI.** His name means “My messenger” or “messenger of Jehovah.” This is the last book of the Old Testament. The first verse of chapter one tells us that this book is “the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.”

## Special Outline of Malachi

1. **God expresses His love for Israel**—Malachi 1:1-5.
2. **The Lord reproves the priests for their sins**—Malachi 1:6-14 and 2:1-17. (Some of these sins are: offering polluted bread on the table of the Lord; offering blind, lame, and sick instead of their best for the Lord. Malachi 1:8 says, “**Offer it then to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you favorably? says the LORD of hosts.**” Malachi 1:14 tells us it is a great sin to sacrifice to the Lord a corrupt thing. Malachi 2:4-7 tells us what a true priest should be like: having a godly fear of the Lord, the law of truth in his mouth, no sin on his lips, walking in peace and equity with the Lord, and turning many away from iniquity (sin). A true priest is the messenger of the Lord. Malachi 2:14-16 reproves any priest who deals treacherously against the wife of his youth.)
3. **God’s messenger, John the Baptist, is foretold**—Malachi 3:1-6.
4. **The people have robbed God**—Malachi 3:7-12. Verses 8 and 9 say, “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation.”
5. **How to obtain God’s blessings**—Malachi 3:10-12.
6. **The faithful ones**—Malachi 3:16-18 and 4:2-3.
7. **Elijah to come before the great and dreadful day of the Lord**—Malachi 4:4-6.



*Is your name in the book of remembrance?*

## Memory Verses

**Malachi 3:16**—“Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon His name” (KJV).

**Malachi 3:17**—“And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him” (KJV).

### The 12 sons of Jacob

Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun, Dan, Joseph, Benjamin, Naphthali, Gad, Asher (referred to in Malachi 3:6 and listed in 1 Chronicles 2:1-2).

### The 12 disciples of Jesus

Simon Peter; James, the son of Zebedee; John, the brother of James; Andrew; Philip; Bartholomew; Matthew; Thomas; James, the son of Alpheus; Thaddeus; Simon the Canaanite; and Judas Iscariot (Mark 3:14-19).

“... I am the LORD, I do not change . . . —Malachi 3:6

# MATTHEW

(28 chapters)

**WRITER**—**MATTHEW**, who is also called Levi, is believed to have written the book of Matthew. He was a publican (a tax collector). He left all to follow Jesus (Matthew 9:9). His name means “gift of God.”

**People to look for**—Mary, the mother of Jesus; Joseph, the husband of Mary; the wise men; King Herod; John the Baptist; Jesus Christ Himself; the twelve disciples; scribes, Pharisees, and Sadducees; Simon Peter (chapters 16 and 26); two blind men (chapter 20); a lawyer (chapter 22); ten virgins (chapter 25); Judas Iscariot; Caiaphas, the high priest; Pilate; Mary Magdalene; and Joseph of Arimathea.

## The Temptation of Jesus

(Matthew 4:1-11)

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*The devil tried to get Jesus to obey him and to use His power in a wrong way. This is called a temptation. Jesus used the Word of God against the devil.*

*Read Matthew 4:4, 7, and 10.*

You also can resist the devil and he will leave you (James 4:7). Because Jesus never yielded to any temptation of the devil, He can help you also to be strong. Ask Him to help you. We should learn many Bible verses to help us overcome the devil and to keep our faith in Jesus Christ.

### Special Verses from Matthew

**Matthew 1:21**—“. . . you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

**Matthew 5:8**—“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”

**Matthew 5:44b**—“Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.”

**Matthew 18:20**—“For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”

**Matthew 21:22**—“And all things, whatever you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”

**Jesus was tempted in all points like we are, yet without sin. —Hebrews 4:15**

# MARK

(16 chapters)

**WRITER**—**MARK**, also known as John Mark, a prominent leader in the early church and a cousin to Barnabas (Colossians 4:10). He is mentioned in Acts 12:12, 25; 13:5, 13; 15:37-39; 2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24; and 1 Peter 5:13.

**People to look for**—John the Baptist; the Lord Jesus Christ; the twelve disciples (listed below); a man with an unclean spirit; a woman with an issue of blood; a ruler's 12-year-old daughter; the family of Jesus (6:1-6); King Herod; the feeding of 5,000 men (6:44) and then another 4,000 people (8:9); a father's son with a deaf and dumb spirit; a man who planted a vineyard; a poor widow who gave all her living; a woman with a box of expensive ointment; a high priest and his maid; Pilate; Barabbas; soldiers; Simon the Cyrenian who helped Jesus carry His cross; the centurion; Mary Magdalene, out of whom Jesus cast seven devils; Joseph of Arimathea, an honorable counsellor.



*Jesus chooses 12 disciples, among whom are Simon Peter and John.  
Read Mark 1:16-20 and 3:14-19.*

(The dozen disciples of Jesus were: Simon Peter and Andrew, his brother; James and John, his brother; Philip; Bartholomew; Matthew; Thomas; James, the son of Alphaeus; Thaddaeus; Simon the Canaanite; and Judas Iscariot.)

## Special Verses from Mark

**Mark 8:36**—"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"

**Mark 9:23b**—"If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

**Mark 10:14b**—"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God."

**Mark 12:31**—" . . . You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

**Mark 13:13**—"And you will be hated by all men for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end shall be saved."

**"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."**

—Mark 16:15 (KJV)

# LUKE

## (24 chapters)

**WRITER**—LUKE, a physician (see Colossians 4:14). In Luke 1:27-35 Luke stresses that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was truly a virgin. The deity of Jesus Christ is proved in that the Holy Ghost was the father of Jesus Christ, making Him truly the Son of God. God says Jesus is His Son in Luke 9:35. "... This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!"

**People to look for**—Zacharias; Elizabeth; John the Baptist; the angel Gabriel; Joseph; the virgin Mary; Jesus; the shepherds; Simeon; Anna, the prophetess; James and John, the sons of Zebedee; all the disciples; a bedridden man with palsy; a centurion's servant; a widow's son; a sower sowing seed; the good Samaritan; the sisters Mary and Martha; the father who had two sons; Lazarus, the beggar; a certain rich man; ten lepers; the Pharisee and publican; a blind man; Zacchaeus; a nobleman; a man who planted a vineyard; a poor widow who gave the most because it was all her living; a man with a pitcher of water; Peter, who denied Jesus three times; the two thieves crucified with Jesus; Joseph, a counsellor who helped with the burial of Jesus; various people to whom Jesus showed Himself after the resurrection.

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*After Jesus rose from the dead, He revealed Himself to two disciples on the way to Emmaus (Luke chapter 24).*

### Special Verses from Luke

(Luke 12:6 tells us that not one sparrow is forgotten before God.)

**Luke 6:37**—"... Forgive, and you will be forgiven."

**Luke 11:28**—"... blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

**Luke 12:4**—"... do not be afraid of those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do."

**Luke 12:7**—"... the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows."

**Luke 12:8**—"... Whoever confesses Me before men, him the Son of Man also will confess before the angels of God."

**Luke 15:10**—"... there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

**Luke 19:10**—"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

### Repentance Is Necessary

"... Unless you repent you will all likewise perish." —Luke 13:3

# JOHN

(21 chapters)

**WRITER**—**JOHN THE APOSTLE**, son of Zebedee. He stresses the deity of Jesus so that we might believe that Jesus Christ is God (John 20:31).

## SEVEN WITNESSES

(that Jesus is the Son of God)

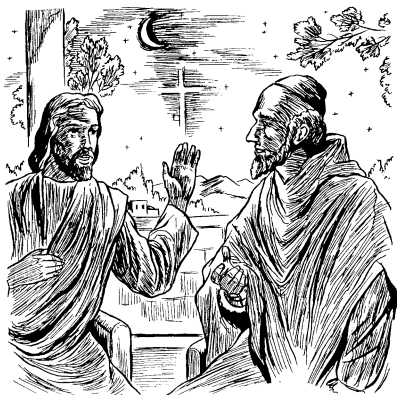
1. **John the Baptist** in John 1:34—"And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."
2. **Nathanael** in John 1:49—"Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"
3. **Peter** in John 6:69—"And we believe and are sure that Thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God" (KJV).
4. **Martha** in John 11:27—"Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."
5. **Thomas** in John 20:28—"My Lord and my God!"
6. **John** in John 20:31—"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."
7. **Christ** in John 10:36—"I am the Son of God."

## WITNESS OF JESUS HIMSELF

(Seven "I AM'S")

1. **John 6:35**—"I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."
2. **John 8:12**—"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."
3. **John 8:58**—" . . . before Abraham was, I AM."
4. **John 10:11**—"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep."
5. **John 11:25b**—"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (KJV).
6. **John 14:6**—"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
7. **John 15:1**—"I am the true vine . . ."

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*Jesus tells Nicodemus, a ruler who came to Jesus at night, that he must be born again. Read John 3:1-7.*

## We Must Believe in Jesus to Be Saved

- John 1:12**—"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" (KJV).
- John 3:16**—"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (KJV).
- John 3:36**—" . . . He who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."
- John 6:37**—" . . . the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."
- John 8:24**—" . . . if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

**" . . . Because I live, you will live also." —John 14:19**

# ACTS

## (28 chapters)

**WRITER**—LUKE, the physician. In the book of Acts, Luke portrays the acts of the Holy Spirit working through the apostles. Jesus had commanded them to stay in Jerusalem until they received the promise of the Father—the infilling of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4 and 2:1-11).

The day of Pentecost was the birth-day of the Church. It was characterized in TWO outstanding ways:

(1) **A sound from heaven** as of a rushing, mighty wind which filled the house where they were sitting **and cloven (divided) tongues, as of fire**, which appeared and sat on each of them.

(2) **All were filled with the Holy Spirit** and they began to speak in other tongues or languages that could be understood. Each man who gathered there heard them speak in his own language! The Holy Spirit so filled Peter that he preached with power and urged the people to repent and be baptized. Almost 3,000 souls were added to the Church.

**People to look for**—Matthias; the twelve disciples; a lame man; Barnabas; Ananias and his wife, Sapphira; Stephen, who became the first Christian martyr (stoned to death); Saul of Tarsus, who was present at Stephen's death; Philip; the man of Ethiopia; Ananias, a disciple of Damascus; Cornelius, the centurion; Peter; Rhoda; Herod; Paul (Saul's Greek name); Silas; Dorcas; Lydia; a man from Macedonia; Aquila and his wife, Priscilla; the silversmith named Demetrius; Felix the governor; King Agrippa and his wife, Bernice.

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*Saul, who had persecuted the Christians,  
is himself converted to Christ on the way to Damascus (Acts chapter 9).*

*Later he is known as Paul. Read Acts 13:9.*

Paul was now a changed man. He was a chosen vessel to tell about Jesus Christ before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. Paul told them that Christ is the Son of God (Acts 9:20).

### Special Verses

**Acts 4:12**—“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

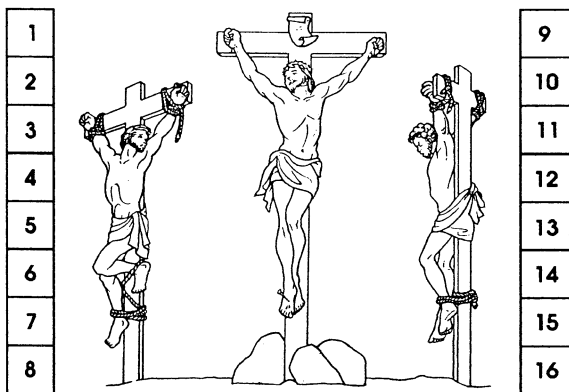
“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved . . .”—Acts 16:31b  
 God gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him. —Acts 5:32

# ROMANS

(16 chapters)

**WRITER—PAUL, THE APOSTLE** (Romans 1:1), born at Tarsus of pure Jewish stock. Although Paul was a Roman citizen; had an excellent Greek education under Gamaliel, the great teacher of the Pharisees; and was of the Hebrew religion (all of which qualified him for his great work), yet Paul trusted only in the finished work of Christ for his salvation. The just shall live by faith in the Son of God. Christ is our righteousness. Paul tells us how to live a life of victory in Romans 6:1-14—dead to sin and alive to God—yielding ourselves to God. (For one of the greatest sermons preached by Paul, read chapter 5.)

**Key verse: Romans 1:16**—“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes . . . .”



“ . . . while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

**PLEASE NOTE:** There were two distinctive methods of affixing a living victim to a cross—tying or nailing. We know that Christ underwent the horror of nailing. In John 20:25, Thomas, one of the disciples, said: “**Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.**”

The agony of a crucified person was brought about not only by tying or nailing him to a cross, but also by the abnormal position of the body. The slightest movement would cause great suffering. A terrible traumatic fever was induced in the victim by hanging him for such a long period of time. For more information, consult page 189 of *The Zondervan Pictorial Bible Dictionary* by Merrill C. Tenney.

Jesus said, “**Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed**” (John 20:29b).

## Special Verses in Romans

**Romans 6:14-16**—“For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” (KJV).

**Romans 6:22**—“But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life” (KJV).

“ . . . Whoever calls upon the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

—Romans 10:13

# FIRST CORINTHIANS

(16 chapters)

**WRITER—PAUL, THE APOSTLE.** Corinth was an important commercial center and very worldly. Christians there needed help in their Christian walk. Throughout this book Paul gives very good advice. The greatest danger to the Corinthian church was not persecution from the world but persecution from within the church! There were divisions among the people who took sides with various leaders. Read 1 Corinthians 1:11-13 and 3:3-8. Jesus Christ is the only cure for any problem. We must keep our eyes on Christ, the crucified and risen One (1 Corinthians 1:30-31 and 2:1-5).

Read 1 Corinthians carefully. The decisions we make and how we live our lives and conduct ourselves can make a difference for all eternity—not only to ourselves but for others. See 1 Corinthians 5:11 and chapters 6, 7, and 8. In chapter 12 Paul speaks about the various gifts the Lord gives to His children. The famous love chapter is 1 Corinthians chapter 13. It would be of great value to memorize it.

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*There are believers in Christ all around the world. Any believer in Christ belongs to the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-27).*

## Special Verses in 1 Corinthians

**1 Corinthians 2:9**—"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

**1 Corinthians 3:8**—" . . . each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor."

**1 Corinthians 6:20**—" . . . You were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." (Verses 9-11 show how God can change our lives.)



**"Let all that you do be done with love."**

(1 Corinthians 16:14)

**"And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love." —1 Corinthians 13:13**

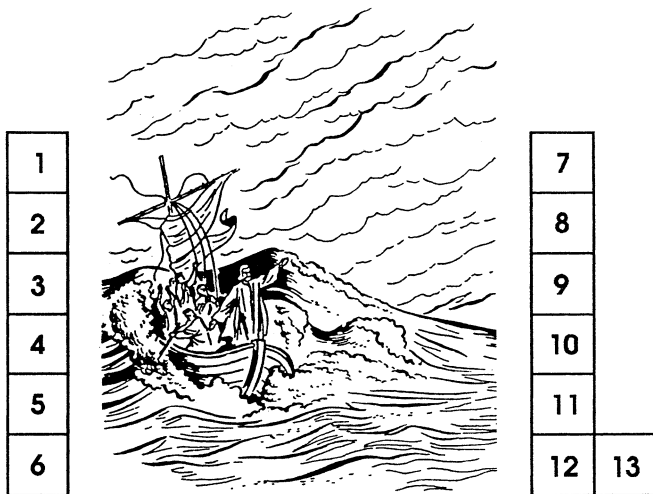


# SECOND CORINTHIANS

(13 chapters)

**WRITER—PAUL, THE APOSTLE**—one of the greatest missionaries of all time. His sufferings for Christ and his unselfish love in making Christ known give proof of his sincerity in following Christ. The Lord told Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:9—“My grace is sufficient for you.” Paul proved this so in all his experiences.

**2 Corinthians 4:17**—“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”



*Paul suffered many perils while serving Christ (2 Corinthians 11:23-33).*

## Special Verses from 2 Corinthians

**2 Corinthians 4:16**—“... though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.”

**2 Corinthians 5:1**—“For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens” (KJV).

**2 Corinthians 5:15**—“He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.”

**2 Corinthians 5:17**—“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

**2 Corinthians 6:14**—“Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?”

**2 Corinthians 8:9**—“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”

**2 Corinthians 9:7**—“So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”

“... God is able to make all grace abound toward you.” —2 Corinthians 9:8a

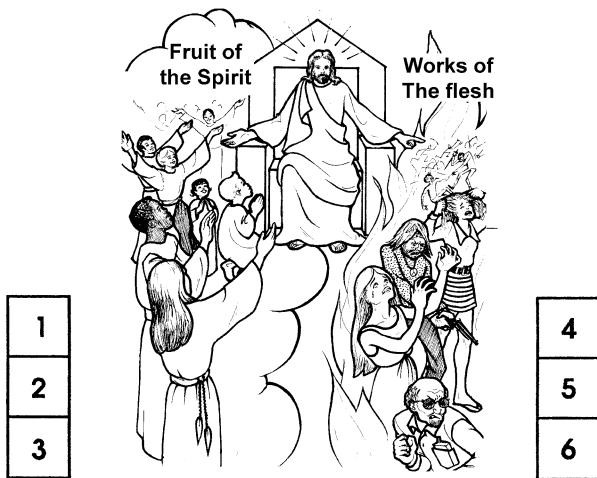
# GALATIANS

(6 chapters)

## WRITER—PAUL, THE APOSTLE.

Gauls were a warm-hearted, generous people but easily misled. Paul needed to explain to them the difference between law and faith. Galatians 2:16 says—“ . . . by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.” In Galatians 3:24 (KJV) we read, “The law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.” Also Galatians 3:11 says, “. . . No one is justified by the law in the sight of God . . . , for ‘The just shall live by faith.’”

With Christ in our hearts we can now keep the Ten Commandments. Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 5:17—“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.” In fact, Jesus gives us new concepts of the commandments. Read Matthew 5:17-48.



*Fruit of the Spirit and works of the flesh are manifest (Galatians chapter 5).*

**Galatians 5:19-21 (KJV)**

### THE WORKS OF THE FLESH ARE:

Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings and such like.

They which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

**Galatians 5:22-26 (KJV)**

### THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS:

Love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Against such there is no law.

They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

## Special Verses from Galatians

**Galatians 2:20**—“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me” (KJV).

**Galatians 6:2**—“Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

**Galatians 6:9**—“And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not” (KJV).

**Galatians 6:10**—“. . . As we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

**It is faith, not works, that puts us into the family of God.**

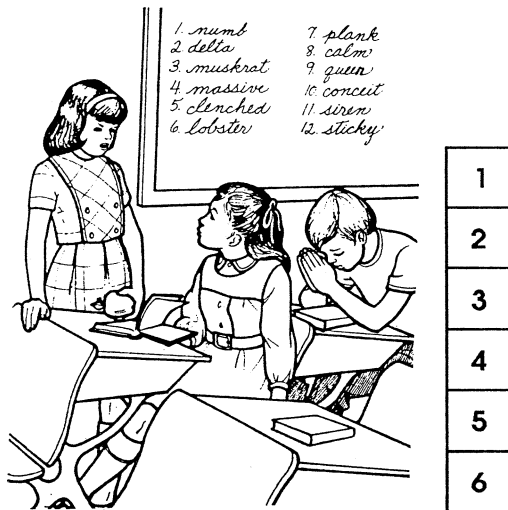
**Galatians 3:26**—“. . . Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus” (KJV).

**“. . . By love serve one another”—Galatians 5:13 (KJV)**

# EPHESIANS

(6 chapters)

**WRITER—PAUL, THE APOSTLE.** Ephesus was the chief city of the Roman province of Asia. This city was greatly blessed by the Lord. The purpose of this book is to strengthen the believers in Christ, encourage them to be renewed in the spirit of their mind, and to “put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness” (Ephesians 4:24).



*All bitterness, anger, and evil speaking must be put away from us. We must not grieve the Holy Spirit of God (Ephesians chapter 4).*

## Special Verses from Ephesians

**Ephesians 1:7**—“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.”

**Ephesians 2:8-9**—“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

**Ephesians 4:25**—“ . . . putting away lying, each one speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another.”

**Ephesians 4:32**—“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” (KJV).

**Ephesians 5:18**—“ . . . be filled with the Spirit.”

## Put On the Whole Armor of God

(Ephesians 6:11-18)

**Ephesians 6:11**—“Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

**Ephesians 6:12**—“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” (KJV).

**Name the pieces that make up the whole armor of God. (See page 64.)**

# PHILIPPIANS

(4 chapters)

**WRITER—PAUL, THE APOSTLE.** Paul writes to the people at Philippi to thank them for their gifts and to encourage them to keep following Christ. In Philippians 1:6 Paul tells them, “. . . **He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.**” Paul urges us to keep rejoicing, giving thanks to the Lord, and thinking on the good things of life. “. . . Whatsoever things are **true**, whatsoever things are **honest**, whatsoever things are **just**, whatsoever things are **pure**, whatsoever things are **lovely**, whatsoever things are of **good report**; if there be any **virtue**, and if there be any **praise**, think on these things” (4:8, KJV).



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*God will supply all our needs (Philippians 4:19).*

## Special Verses in Philippians

**Philippians 1:21**—“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

**Philippians 2:14-15**—“Do all things without murmurings and disputings: that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world” (KJV).

**Philippians 3:14**—“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (KJV).

**Philippians 4:13**—“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

**Philippians 4:19**—“And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

**“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, Rejoice!” —Philippians 4:4**

# COLOSSIANS

(4 chapters)

**WRITER—PAUL, THE APOSTLE.** Paul writes to the church at Colosse, a large city on the Lyeus River in what we call Asia Minor. It was east of Ephesus and very near Laodicea (Colossians 4:13). Epaphras was a faithful minister of Christ in the church at Colosse. The members had faith in Christ and love for one another (Colossians 1:4).

Paul mentions he is praying for them and urges them to walk worthy of the Lord, to be fruitful in every good work, to increase in the knowledge of God, . . . and to continue giving thanks to God our Father, who has made us partakers of the inheritance of the saints (Colossians 1:9-12).



*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly . . . ” (Colossians 3:16).*

## Special Verses from Colossians

**Colossians 1:13-14**—“He [God] has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.”

**Colossians 2:9**—“For in Him [Christ] dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”

**Colossians 3:4**—“When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”

**Colossians 3:13**—“Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye” (KJV).

**Colossians 3:23**—“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.”

**Colossians 4:6**—“Let your speech always be with grace . . . .”

**Colossians 4:17**—“ . . . Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.”

**“Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.”**  
—Colossians 3:2 (KJV)

# FIRST THESSALONIANS

(5 chapters)

**WRITER—PAUL, THE APOSTLE.** Paul desired to visit Thessalonica again, but since this was impossible, he sent Timothy from Athens who brought back a good report to Paul (1 Thessalonians 3:1-2, 6). Paul speaks much about the second coming of Christ throughout 1 Thessalonians. Look up each reference—1:10; 2:12, 19; 3:13; 4:13-18; and 5:1-11, 23.



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*“The dead in Christ will rise first” (1 Thessalonians 4:16b).*

## Special Verses from 1 Thessalonians

- 1 Thessalonians 3:12**—“ . . . The Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men . . . ” (KJV).
- 1 Thessalonians 4:3**—“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication” (KJV).
- 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10**—“God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him” (KJV).
- 1 Thessalonians 5:17**—“Pray without ceasing.”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:19**—“Quench not the Spirit” (KJV).
- 1 Thessalonians 5:21**—“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” (KJV).
- 1 Thessalonians 5:22**—“Abstain from all appearance of evil” (KJV).
- 1 Thessalonians 5:24**—“Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it” (KJV).

The verse below is often used as a benediction prayer:

- 1 Thessalonians 5:23** (KJV)—“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Amen.

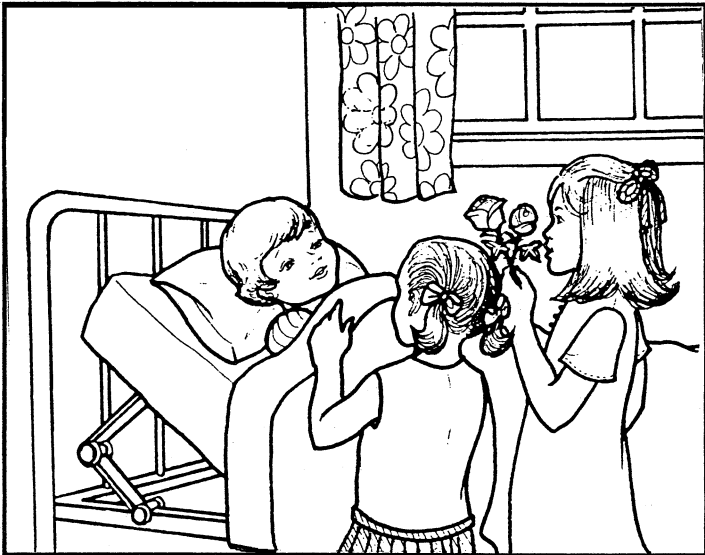
**“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”**

**—1 Thessalonians 5:18 (KJV)**

# SECOND THESSALONIANS

(3 chapters)

**WRITER—PAUL, THE APOSTLE.** Paul wrote this book because the church at Thessalonica needed more instruction concerning “the coming of the Lord” and the “day of Christ” (2 Thessalonians 2:1-14). “Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God” (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).



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*“Be not weary in well doing” (2 Thessalonians 3:13, KJV).*

## Special Verses in 2 Thessalonians

**2 Thessalonians 1:7-10**—“ . . . You who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power; when He shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe . . . in that day” (KJV).

**2 Thessalonians 3:3**—“But the Lord is faithful, who will establish you and guard you from the evil one.”

**2 Thessalonians 3:5**—“And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ” (KJV).

**2 Thessalonians 3:13**—“Be not weary in well doing” (KJV).

*“Now the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always by all means. . . .”*

*—2 Thessalonians 3:16 (KJV)*

# FIRST TIMOTHY

(6 chapters)

**WRITER—PAUL, THE APOSTLE.** Paul speaks of Timothy (Timotheus) as a son in the faith (1:2). In Acts 16:1 we find that Timothy's mother was a Jewess and his father was a Greek. In 2 Timothy 1:5 we have the names of his mother and grandmother. Both were women of great faith.

1 and 2 Timothy and Titus were especially written by Paul for young pastors in charge of churches. Many guidelines are given.

Qualifications for the office of a bishop or elder are given in 1 Timothy 3:1-7, and qualifications for a deacon in 3:8-13. In chapter 4 we are told that in the latter days there will be those who will depart from the faith (verse 1).



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*"Godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Timothy 6:6).*

**1 Timothy 6:7-8**—"For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content" (KJV).

## Special Verses from 1 Timothy

**1 Timothy 1:5**—" . . . The end of the commandment is [love] out of a pure heart . . ." (KJV).

**1 Timothy 2:5**—"For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus."

**1 Timothy 3:16**—"And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up in glory."

**1 Timothy 4:8**—" . . . Bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come."

**1 Timothy 4:12**—"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

**1 Timothy 5:22**—" . . . keep yourself pure."

**1 Timothy 6:10**—"The love of money is the root of all evil . . ." (KJV).

**" . . . Behave thyself in the house of God . . ."—1 Timothy 3:15 (KJV)**

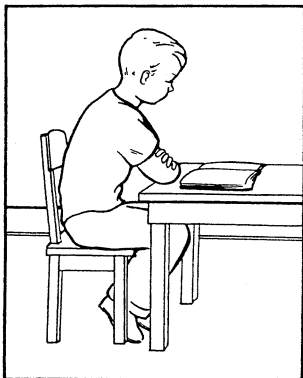


# SECOND TIMOTHY

(4 chapters)

**WRITER—PAUL, THE APOSTLE.** This is another letter to Timothy. Paul is now bound in prison in Rome and wants Timothy to come because the time is short (4:9). Paul is about ready to depart from this life (4:6). Listen to his testimony of victory: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing" (4:7-8).

Paul warns Timothy to endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ (2:3) and to be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus (2:1). Paul wants Timothy to pass on all the things he has learned from him to other faithful men, who in turn can teach others also (2:2).



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*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16).*

## Special Verses from 2 Timothy

- 2 Timothy 1:12**—" . . . I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day" (KJV).
- 2 Timothy 2:15**—"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (KJV).
- 2 Timothy 2:19**—" . . . the Lord knows those who are His . . ."
- 2 Timothy 2:24**—" . . . A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient."
- 2 Timothy 4:17**—" . . . the Lord stood with me and strengthened me . . ."
- 2 Timothy 4:18**—" . . . The Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!"

## Something to Think About

Paul will soon be put to death because of his faith in Jesus Christ. No doubt he remembers the testimony of Stephen when he was being stoned to death. Stephen had prayed for those killing him. If we should face death someday because we serve the Lord Jesus Christ, what will our attitudes be? We, too, must leave a good witness for Christ. Paul said some comforting words as he approached his death. Read his words below:

**" . . . Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's."—Romans 14:8**

# TITUS

(3 chapters)

**WRITER—PAUL, THE APOSTLE.** Paul also speaks of Titus as a son in the faith (1:4). Titus was a younger minister and very helpful to Paul. In chapter 1 Paul gives guidelines as to who qualifies to be ordained as an elder or bishop.



*Titus was left on the island of Crete by Paul so that he could help settle differences and ordain elders in every city. Here Paul is preaching of our blessed hope and the appearing of our Lord. (See Titus 2:11-15.)*

## Special Verses in Titus

**Titus 2:11-14 is a wonderful message in itself:**

**Verse 11**—"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men,"

**Verse 12**—"teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present [world],"

**Verse 13**—"looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,"

**Verse 14**—"who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from [all iniquity] and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works."

**Titus 3:5**—"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us . . . ."

## Paul Gives Good Advice

1. To the older men—Titus 2:1-2
2. To the older women—Titus 2:3-5
3. To the younger women—Titus 2:4-5
4. To the younger men—Titus 2:6-8
5. To the servants—Titus 2:9-10

**" . . . be careful to maintain good works . . . ." —Titus 3:8**

# PHILEMON

(1 chapter)

**WRITER—PAUL, THE APOSTLE.** This is a personal letter from Paul to Philemon, written in kindness and tactfulness. Our letter writing can also be helpful to others. Letters can be read over and over again. The whole world has been blessed by Paul's epistles (letters). Suppose he had not written them—what a different world this would be!

In this letter Paul intercedes for Philemon's slave, Onesimus, who stole from his master and made his way to Rome. There Onesimus met Paul and found Christ as Savior. His running away was punishable by death, so what must he do now that he has become a Christian? Fortunately for Onesimus, his master, Philemon, was a Christian too (verse 1).



*The slave, Onesimus, who has become a Christian is now ready to return to his master, Philemon. Paul asks Philemon to receive him.*

## Some Things to Think About

- 1. The slave's name "Onesimus" means "profitable."** Paul uses this fact in his letter when he tells of the complete change in the life of this slave. Verse 11 says: "Who once was unprofitable to you, but now is profitable to you and to me."
- 2. Paul now looks upon Onesimus as a son in the faith** (verse 10). Paul tells Philemon he can now also receive Onesimus not just as a servant but as a "brother in the Lord." Isn't it wonderful to be a part of the great family of God (verse 16)!
- 3. Paul is willing to help Onesimus put things right** (verses 18-19).
- 4. Paul was a man of prayer.** He told his friend Philemon he prayed for him (verse 4). Do we pray for our friends on a regular basis? We should.

## We Should Communicate Our Faith in Jesus Christ to Others

**MEMORY VERSE: Philemon, verse 6**—"That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus" (KJV).

# HEBREWS

(13 chapters)

**WRITER**—most scholars say **PAUL** wrote the book of Hebrews. This makes 14 books in all which are called the Pauline epistles (letters). See back cover. This is the only book which deals fully with the priestly ministry of Christ.

**Key verse: Hebrews 4:14**—“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession” (KJV).

Christ died to become our high priest (Hebrews 7:14-28). Because Christ is now alive and lives forever, He has an unchangeable priesthood. Hebrews 7:25 says, “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He ever lives to make intercession for them.” (Read also Hebrews 9:22-26.)

**Hebrews 8:1**—“Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens” (KJV).

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“ . . . It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment”  
(Hebrews 9:27, KJV).

## Something to Think About

It is very dangerous to sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, because there is no other sacrifice for sins. Read Hebrews 10:26-31. To willfully reject the atoning sacrifice of the Son of God and to count the blood of the covenant as an unholy thing will bring the wrath of God upon us.

## Special Verses in Hebrews for Believers

**Hebrews 5:9**—“And being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him” (KJV).

**Hebrews 6:10**—“ . . . God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.”

**Hebrews 10:25**—“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

**Hebrews 10:35**—“Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward” (KJV).

**Hebrews 11:6**—“ . . . Without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”

**Hebrews 12:14**—“Pursue peace with all men, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.”

**Hebrews 13:5**—“ . . . I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

**Hebrews 13:8**—“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

**Hebrews 13:16**—“But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased” (KJV).

“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

—Hebrews 11:1

# JAMES

(5 chapters)

**WRITER**—**JAMES**, whom Paul called “the Lord’s brother” (Galatians 1:19). Christ had four brothers, mentioned in Matthew 13:55. James was mentioned first, so he may have been the oldest. Before the death of Christ, James was not a believer (John 7:5), but after the resurrection James and his brothers, Joses, Simon, and Judas, were in the upper room with their mother Mary and all the disciples (Acts 1:13-14).

The purpose of this book is to show that true faith in Christ results in good works and a life of piety. James deals with controlling the tongue (chapter 3) and warns against worldliness (chapter 4). In chapter 5 James admonishes believers to establish their hearts in the Lord and to help others also to be ready for the coming of the Lord (5:7-20).



“... Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?” (James 2:5).

## Special Verses in James

- James 1:17**—“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”
- James 1:22**—“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”
- James 1:27**—“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world” (KJV).
- James 2:26**—“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”
- James 4:6**—“God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.”
- James 4:7-8a**—“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.”
- James 5:14**—“Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.”
- James 5:16**—“... The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”

“Do not speak evil of one another . . .” —James 4:11

# FIRST PETER

(5 chapters)

**WRITER—THE APOSTLE PETER**, originally a fisherman of Galilee and brought to Christ by his brother Andrew (John 1:40-42). He was married (Matthew 8:14). He walked on the water (Matthew 14:27-32). He denied Jesus three times before the cock crowed, then wept bitterly (Matthew 26:69-75). At Pentecost he was filled with the Spirit, preached a great sermon, and 3,000 souls gladly received the Word (Acts chapter 2). Peter continued to preach the Word with power. Read 1 Peter 1:15-25 for a powerful exhortation to live a holy life.

The purpose of 1 Peter is to encourage persecuted and suffering Christians.

## Fiery Trials and Suffering for Christ Can Be Expected

### 1 Peter 4:12-19

<sup>12</sup>Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;

<sup>13</sup>but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy (KJV).

<sup>14</sup>If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. . . .

<sup>15</sup>But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters.

<sup>16</sup>Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed. . . .

<sup>17</sup>For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

<sup>18</sup>Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.



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*“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8).*

### Special Verses from 1 Peter

**1 Peter 2:20**—“ . . . when you do good and suffer for it, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God.”

**1 Peter 2:21**—“ . . . Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps.”

**1 Peter 3:12**—“For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.”

**“Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” —1 Peter 5:7**

# SECOND PETER

(3 chapters)

**WRITER—THE APOSTLE PETER.** This book was written mainly to strengthen believers against attack from the inside—from false teachers (2:1-2) and from scoffers who will scorn the truth about the Lord's coming back (3:3-4). They say all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation, but they forget that once this world overflowed with water and perished (Genesis 6:12-18). Only Noah and his family in the ark were spared (Genesis chapter 7).

Peter tells us in 2 Peter 3:7—"But the heavens and the earth which now exist are kept in store by the same word, reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." Read 2 Peter 3:10-13.



*"The Lord is . . . not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).*

## Special Verses in 2 Peter

- 2 Peter 1:5-8**—" . . . add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness [love]. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" (KJV).
- 2 Peter 1:10-11**—" . . . give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (KJV).
- 2 Peter 2:9-10**—"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished: but chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities" (KJV).
- 2 Peter 3:10**—"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, . . . the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up."
- 2 Peter 3:11**—" . . . since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness."

**"Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord . . ." —2 Peter 3:18 (KJV)**

# FIRST JOHN

(5 chapters)

**WRITER**—JOHN, the disciple “whom Jesus loved” (John 13:23).

This epistle or letter was written to those who believe on the name of the Son of God (1 John 5:13). John wanted all believers, young and old, to have assurance of salvation and to walk in close fellowship with the Lord.



The moment we confess our sins to Christ, He forgives.

Anything that Christ died for, He is able to forgive. He will forgive if we ask Him.

Read the verse on the praying hands at the left.

Confess your sins to Jesus now.

(Memorize this verse.)

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## Special Verses from 1 John

- 1 John 1:6**—“If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.”
- 1 John 1:7**—“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”
- 1 John 2:10**—“He who loves his brother abides in the light . . . .”
- 1 John 2:11**—“But he who hates his brother is in darkness . . . .”
- 1 John 3:10**—“In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.”
- 1 John 3:14**—“We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.”
- 1 John 3:15**—“Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.”
- 1 John 4:4**—“ . . . greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world” (KJV).
- 1 John 4:7**—“ . . . let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.”
- 1 John 4:8**—“ . . . God is love.”
- 1 John 5:4**—“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith” (KJV).
- 1 John 5:5**—“Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”
- 1 John 5:12**—“He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”
- 1 John 5:14**—“ . . . if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.”

**“We love Him because He first loved us.” —1 John 4:19**



# SECOND JOHN

(1 chapter)

**WRITER—JOHN.** He refers to himself as the “elder” in this letter. He is warning the elect lady and her children against deceivers and false doctrine.



*Beware of false teachers. If anyone comes to you not having the doctrine of Jesus Christ, do not receive him (or her) into your house. (See verse 10.)*

## Special Verses from 2 John

**Verse 7**—“For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist” (KJV).

**Verse 9**—“Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.”

**Verse 10**—“If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed” (KJV).

**Verse 11**—“For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds” (KJV).

# THIRD JOHN

(1 chapter)

**WRITER—JOHN.** This time John writes to someone very dear to him by the name of Gaius (verse 1).

## Special Verses from 3 John

**Verse 2**—“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.”

**Verse 4**—“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.”

**Verse 11**—“Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God” (KJV).

“ . . . Peace to you. . . ”—3 John, verse 14

# JUDE

(1 chapter)

**WRITER—JUDE**, who describes himself as a “servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James” (verse 1). He was probably a brother of Jesus.



*Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, warns us that there will be mockers in the last days, walking after their own ungodly desires; murmurers and complainers, their mouths speaking great swelling words (verses 15-16).*

Jude writes, “Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life” (verse 21).

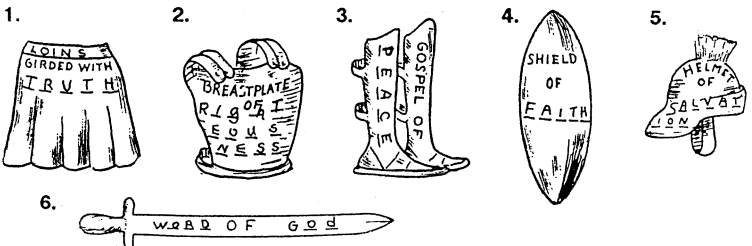
**Jude’s prayer (which many pastors pray at the close of a service):**

“Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.”  
—Jude, verses 24-25 (KJV)

“Mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.” —Jude, verse 2

## Pieces that Make Up the Whole Armor of God

Ephesians 6:11-18 (See page 49.)



“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful . . .”

## REVELATION (22 chapters)

**WRITER—JOHN.** Four times the writer is clearly stated to be John: Revelation 1:1, 4, 9 and Revelation 22:8. He writes to the seven churches of Asia (1:4) as well as to the servants of Christ (1:1 and 22:6) and to any person, saved or unsaved, who will read and act upon what he has written (1:3; 3:20; 22:7, 17-19).

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*For a description of heaven, read Revelation chapters 21 and 22.  
Also read Revelation 7:9-17.*

**“Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.”—Revelation 22:14**

### Special Verses in Revelation

**Revelation 1 :8—** “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,’ says the Lord, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.’”

This shows that the Lord Jesus Christ is truly one with the Father. In Genesis, the first book of the Bible, the LORD appeared to Abraham and said, “I am Almighty God” (Genesis 17:1). In Revelation, the last book of the Bible, the saints sing the song of Moses and the song of the Lamb of God (Revelation 15:3). The Lamb of God is Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who came to take away the sin of the world. John tells us this in John 1:29 and 36.

**Revelation 15:3—**“And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: ‘Great and marvellous are Your works, Lord God Almighty!...’” We do not need to fear Satan. Jesus Christ is the one to fear and love. Revelation 1:18—“I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”

**Revelation 3:20—**“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”

### Seven Great Promises to Everyone Who Overcomes

**Read:** Revelation 2:7, 17, and 26-28; 3:5, 12, and 21.

**Revelation 12:11—**“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”

#### Do You Want to Make Heaven Your Home?

Then let the Lord Jesus Christ come into your heart and live there forever. “Christ IN you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1 :27). We must make sure to let Christ rule our lives in this present world (Matthew 7:21-23). If you need help praying, turn to page 25.

**“Lord, enter Thou my home with me until I enter Yours with Thee. Amen.”**

**In the Old Testament Jesus Christ is concealed;  
in the New Testament He is revealed.**

## THE HOLY BIBLE—GOD'S ETERNAL WORD

**“Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.” —Psalm 119:89**  
Memorize in order the books of the Bible (66 books in all). This will help you find Scripture verses more quickly. Practice saying the books to a friend.

### OLD TESTAMENT (39 books)

#### LAW (5)

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy

#### HISTORICAL (12)

1. Joshua
2. Judges
3. Ruth
4. 1 Samuel
5. 2 Samuel
6. 1 Kings
7. 2 Kings
8. 1 Chronicles
9. 2 Chronicles
10. Ezra
11. Nehemiah
12. Esther

#### POETICAL (5)

1. Job
2. Psalms
3. Proverbs
4. Ecclesiastes
5. Song of Solomon

#### MAJOR PROPHETS (5)

1. Isaiah
2. Jeremiah
3. Lamentations
4. Ezekiel
5. Daniel

#### MINOR PROPHETS (12)

1. Hosea
2. Joel
3. Amos
4. Obadiah
5. Jonah
6. Micah
7. Nahum
8. Habakkuk
9. Zephaniah
10. Haggai
11. Zechariah
12. Malachi

### NEW TESTAMENT (27 books)

#### GOSPELS (4)

1. Matthew
2. Mark
3. Luke
4. John

#### HISTORICAL (1)

1. Acts

#### PAULINE LETTERS (14)

1. Romans
2. 1 Corinthians
3. 2 Corinthians
4. Galatians
5. Ephesians
6. Philippians
7. Colossians
8. 1 Thessalonians
9. 2 Thessalonians
10. 1 Timothy
11. 2 Timothy
12. Titus
13. Philemon
14. Hebrews

#### GENERAL LETTERS (7)

1. James
2. 1 Peter
3. 2 Peter
4. 1 John
5. 2 John
6. 3 John
7. Jude

#### PROPHETIC (1)

1. Revelation

#### INTERESTING FACTS

- Longest chapter—Psalm 119
- Shortest chapter—Psalm 117
- Longest verse—Esther 8:9
- Shortest verse—John 11:35
- Number of chapters—1,189
- Chapters in the Old Testament—929
- Chapters in the New Testament—260

#### TO HELP YOU REMEMBER

- Old Testament books—39
- New Testament books—3x9=27

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