



# 24 Hours Through the Bible\*

\*Primarily sourced from 'Learn the Bible in 24 Hours', by Dr. Chuck Missler, Thomas Nelson

## Hour 1: Introduction

### Time is one of Four Understandable Dimensions Out of Ten Total

-We start with the 'beginning' of time and the first words of Scripture. What are they?

**Genesis 1:1** In the beginning God ....

Or

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word ...

-Or more freely translated ... *Before there was a beginning there was the Word ...*

-The Word was before any creating or creation .... The Word was and is *the* God of Gen. 1:1

-How do we know? **John 1: 2** He was in the beginning with or facing God (*the Father*).

3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

### Dimensions

-We are given four dimensions of God's love by the Holy Spirit and the Apostle Paul in **Eph. 3:17-18**

17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the **width** and **length** and **depth** and **height**—

19 to know *experientially* the love of Christ which *surpasses* knowledge....

-We are all familiar with the 3D basic physical dimensions: Height, Width, and Depth

-We have here the added dimension of '**length**'

-All four here are related to the Love of God

-Guzik says this about these four dimensions:

-God's love is **wide** enough to include every person.

-God's love is **long** enough to last through all eternity.

-God's love is **deep** enough to reach the worst sinner.

-God's love is **high** enough to take us to heaven.

-The creation of time allows for common the 3Ds to animate and be experienced.

-Length of time commands experience whether good or evil.

-In the LXX \* of **Prov. 3:2** the same Greek word for '**length**' in Eph. 3:18 is used. (see also Prov. 3:16),

\* Greek translation of the Old Testament by 70 Hellenistic Jews around 280 BC

**3:1** My son, do not forget my law,

But let your heart keep my commands;

2 For **length** of days and long life

And peace they will add to you.

-So time is the fourth dimension, and what we have in Eph. 3:18 are the four dimensions of God's love

## The First 'TIME' Measurements

In Genesis chapter 1 are found the 'days' of creation where we learn of the first measures of time as we know them.

- They are very macro or basic in measure
- The first 'time' measures were not in hours or minutes or seconds but in two different kinds of half days that make a 24 hour day.
- We read in .....**Gen. 1:5** God called the light or dawn Day, and the darkness He called Night. So the evening (darkness) and the morning (light) were the first day.
- (More on 'evening' and 'morning' in Hour 2)
- Before v.5 we have no recorded measure of time (other than beginning, but that is not a measure but a start) as we know it, other than a starting point denoted by the word 'beginning'.
- Is v.5 the beginning of time measures as we know them?

## Measures of Time Are Important in the Scriptures and God Has Ordered and Controlled All of Them.

- We read in **Gen. 1:14-16** 14 Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons (usually translated: 'meetings' 'appointed times', or 'feasts'), and for days and years (first mention of years, is prominent after sin entered then 'years' became associated with birth and death); 15 and in addition let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. 16 Then God made (asa) two great lights: the greater light to rule (dominate) the day, and the lesser light to rule (dominate) the night, He made the stars also.
- The calendar 'week' of 7 days is established in the days of creation, 6 Days of creating, making, forming and then one day of rest.
- More on the Heptadic (Sevenfold) Calendar in Hour 2
- So we read this in **Gen. 1:31-2:2** 31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. 2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.
- '**Finished**' in the LXX is a compound word: *sun* + *teleo* = complete, finished
- The English word 'Finished' is used 90 times in NKJV Bible
- The next time it is used of 'God (not man) finishing' anything is in **John 17:4** I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished (teleo) the work (no need for Him to come to another part of the world to 'work', He is finished) which You have given Me to do.
- Next we read in **John 19:30** So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

## God's Primary Works

- God's creation was finished and He could do no better and rested
- Sin enters and **creates** the need for God to **work** again
- Jesus finishes the necessary work, nothing better could be done, and He declares it is 'finished'
- And He rested the only place that He could-on the cross! The cross of our rest!
- We believe in that finished work and that is our opener to enter into His redemption rest!

**The second significant time measure** after the 'Days' of creation is found in Chapter 5 after sin entered the world and death followed.

- We read two things repeatedly in chapter 5
- 1-After so many '**years**' so and so begot (pro-created) new life,
- 2-Then so and so lived so many more years after begetting life and he died.

-We see this for example with **Seth**:

**Gen. 5:6** Seth lived one hundred and five **years**, and **begot** Enosh.

**7** After he begot Enosh, Seth lived eight hundred and seven **years**, and had sons and daughters.

**8** So all the days of Seth were nine hundred and twelve **years**; and he died.

-Life is 'perpetuated' before the 'perpetuator' dies.

-These are measures of time in 'years' (360 day year or 360 'evening and mornings').

-With Noah we have measures of key events in days; lives though are measured in years.

-So we have thus far 'days' (evenings and mornings) and 'years' as measures of time.

### Time Measures Regarding Abram and His Seed

-Regarding the history of his seed we read this in chapter 15

**-Gen. 15:13** Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them **four hundred years**. **14** And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they (*your descendants*) shall come out with great possessions.

-Here we have a measure of time in years, a season or epoch period of time and the characteristics of life in this time period are stated along with the deliverance of Abram's seed along with back wages

-What these two verses do not say is that they grew tremendously under great adversity.

### Time Measures in Daniel

-In Daniel we have the most important prophetic measurable timetable regarding the nation Israel along with key characteristics of that time table.

-All in the four verses of **Daniel 9:24-27**.

-V.24 starts out: **Seventy weeks are determined for your people**.

-The KJV has 'sevens' in place of weeks.

-Both refer to weeks of years (70 weeks of years specifically).

-One week = seven years.

-This measurement of a week = 7 years is verified in: **Gen. 29:27-28** (see on your own)

-70 x 7 = 490 years.

-The Daniel timetable points to when the Messiah would come and what would happen to Him and the nation of Israel, Daniel's people, Abraham's seed.

-In accordance with Daniel's timetable we read this in **Gal. 4:4-5**

**4** But when the **fullness of the time** (*'chronos', measuring time*) had come, God sent forth (*out of Heaven*) His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,

**5** to redeem (*God's second great work to finish*) those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

### What is the Fullness of Time?

- 'The fullness of time,' as to the Son being sent, and what was to happen to Him was dictated by God in Daniel 9:24-27. (We will look closely at these verses in Hour 9)

-There is very little said in the OT of the NT dispensation of Grace or the Church Age

-It is the time period between the 69<sup>th</sup> Seven of Daniel Nine and the 70<sup>th</sup> Seven.

-The Church Age's duration is known only by the Father.

-But the 'times up, time to move trumpet', 'the last trump' will sound when the fullness of the gentiles has occurred. (See Romans 11:25; on the last trump see Num. 10:1-8)

### There is a Personal, Specific Measure of Time and Place as Well for You and I

**-Acts 17:26-27** says this

**26** And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined (*two things:*) their preappointed times (*season of life on earth*) and the boundaries of their dwellings (*where they will live*),

Why? 27 so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; (see also Deut. 32:8, Deut. 4:7, Ps. 139:16)

### **We All Live in the Same Time Increments**

- Our lives revolve around 7 day increments we call a 'week'
- 6 days of work and the principle of rest still applies for a seventh day
- We live then in 24 hour increments, evening and morning (*More on living in 24 hour increments in Hour 2*)

### **In Time the Bible Was Born**

- ONE Author plus 40 authors over 1500 years.
- Born in the East and clothed in Oriental form and imagery
- The Bible is not a Caucasian book and Jesus did not have blondish hair with blue eyes
- The Bible emerges into the ways of the world with familiar feet and enters land after land to find its own everywhere.
- How so? We all have a common father and therefore a common set of identifiers, common sets of problems
- Jesus anticipated the translatableness and transferableness of the Word of God in **Matt. 28:19** which reads:

**19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations (ethnics), baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**

**20 teaching them (they would have to translate what Jesus taught and commanded) to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.**

### **A Christian's Specialization Must be the Bible**

-Why?

**#1**-The Bible's Author dwells outside of all time and in the present time, at the same moment

-The transcendence of God entails the assertions that He is above, beyond, other than; larger than and more than the world and the universe He has created.

-Literally, transcendence means "to be above" or "beyond."

-It stands in contrast, but not in contradiction, to His immanence, by which He is in the world, and has manifested Himself in the world.

-'Transcendence' is not an inherent trait of God, but a relational one to His creation.

-Inherently, God is infinite, but in relation to His universe He is transcendent, outside of it as well as in it.

-The Biblical Foundation for God's Transcendence

-It begins in the very first verse and permeates the whole of Scripture: God is larger than His creation!

**-Gen. 1:1** "In the beginning God created (from nothing) the heavens and the earth".

**-1 Kings 8:27** "Will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!"

**-Job 11:7-8.** "Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? They are higher than the heavens—what can you do?"

**-Is. 40:12** "Who (the Lord God) has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance?"

**-Eph. 4:6** (There is) "one God and Father of all, who is over all (transcendent) and through all (immanent) and in you all (only when we ask Him in)".

**-Col. 1:17** "He is before all things, and in Him all things are held together".

-This, too, is a paradox (His immanence): **Jeremiah 23:23-24** "'Am I only a God nearby,' declares the LORD, 'and not a God far away? Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?' declares the LORD. 'Do I not fill heaven and earth?' declares the LORD".

-In short, God is before, over, beyond, above, within and throught all things.

#2-The Bible is God breathed, inspired, without error, but not dictated.

**2 Tim. 3:14** But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,  
15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus (*only in NT Scriptures, Matt., Mark, and Luke*).  
16 All Scripture is given by inspiration (*God breathed: when God breathes into anything He gives it life*) of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,  
17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

#3-The Bible is the only book that is living. **Hebrews 4:12**, reads:

12 For the word of God is living (*'zoe' living*) and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

-So powerful and precise that it can cut into, separate in discovery without killing the subject!

-The Word of God has a life of its own.

-**Mark 4:26-27** 26 And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground,  
27 and should sleep by night and rise by day the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how.

### Some Questions Each of Us Must Answer

-Where did we come from and why are we here?

-If we are objects of design, what is the purpose of it all; what is our individual purpose?

-Where are we headed?

#### Dr. Missler ....

-There is only one Book on earth, only one Book in the history of mankind that can answer those cosmic questions and demonstrate its transcendence over time and space.

-It has the audacity to hang its credibility and authenticity on its record of recording history before it happens.

-Only one Book holds the key to your eternal destiny: the ultimate love story, written in blood on a wooden cross erected in Judea some two thousand years ago.

-This brief series will not exhaust the inexhaustible.

-But we can learn the Bible sufficiently to navigate among its many adventures and the many discoveries it contains.

### The Bible Is

#### The Ultimate Literary Adventure

- The Greatest Drama of all time
- The Greatest Evils are in it
- The Greatest Good comes from it
- The Greatest Romance - it is *the* love story
- The Greatest Mysteries - are unfolded
- The Biography of a real Super Man

### The Bible Provides

#### The Ultimate Personal Adventure

- The Miracle of our Origin
- The Mystery of our Destiny
- The Urgency of our Participation

## **After Decades of Study We Have a Unique Advantage**

-Two Critical Discoveries

- 1) We have in our possession an Integrated Message System: 66 separate books penned by 40 different individuals over nearly 1500 years, completed just before the end of the first century AD ...
- 2) It has its origin from outside our time domain.

## **There is One Integrated Design**

- The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed;
- The Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed.

## **A Few Caveats**

- The Word of God is inexhaustible: 24 years would be insufficient...
- The truth is in the details. Every detail is connected to every other.
- Our Goal: A Strategic Grasp of the Total, the whole
  - A conceptual grounding in the major truths
  - A navigational awareness to fit it all together

## **The Sure Communications of God**

- And since God has the technology to create us, He certainly has the means to get a message to us...
- But how does He authenticate His message so that we know that it is really from Him, and not a contrivance or a fraud?
- Here is how:

**-Isaiah 57:15** For thus says the High and Lofty One, that inhabits eternity (*He is eternal, no beginning or end and He is larger than His creation*).....

-.... therefore we read in **Isaiah 46:9-10** 9 For I am God, and there is no other;

**I am God, and there is none like Me,** (*we must shed extending to God our limited capabilities!*)

**10 Declaring or announcing the end from the beginning** (*He can do so because time and creation are all before Him who dwells outside of time, in eternity*),

**-Isaiah 48: 2 ... The LORD of hosts is His name:**

**3 “I have declared the former things from the beginning;**

**They went forth from My mouth, and I caused them to hear it in advance.**

**Suddenly I did them, and they came to pass.**

## **The Central Biblical Themes**

- The OT is an account of a Nation.
- The New Testament is the account of ‘The Nation’ being set aside and temporarily being replaced by The Man and His Body.
- The Creator became a Man. His appearance is the Central Event of all history.
- He died to purchase us and is alive now.
- From one garden’s tree and expulsion from that tree, to another tree outside of another garden
- The most exalted privilege is to know Him. That’s what the Bible is all about.

## **The Panorama of History (Time in the review mirror)**

- Our venture will span the entire span of human history—
- From the singularity of its beginning, to the climax of history as we know it.
- The Book of Genesis covers an amazing portion of it and lays the groundwork for all that follows...



## The Old Testament By the Numbers

-The Torah (Greek 'Pentateuch')	
- The Books of Moses	5
-The Historical Books	12
-The Poetical Books	5
-The Prophets	<u>17</u>
- Major	5
- Minor	12
	39

## Jesus Sets the Stage for our Journey from The Old to New Testament

**Matthew 5:17-18** Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

- The Law and the Prophets are not incongruent with Jesus' coming to fulfill
- All of the Word of God will be fulfilled
- All of the Word of God is *for* us, but we are not under the rule of The Law of Moses.

-We will introduce the 'Ages' or the 'Dispensations' or periods of time that were created by God thru Jesus Christ to fulfill His Word.

**Hebrews 1:1** God who at various times (or in many fragmentary pieces) and in various (kinds) of ways spoke (in a comprehensible way) in time past (palai = paleo) to the fathers by the prophets, **2** has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the **worlds** ages (or periods or epochs of time).

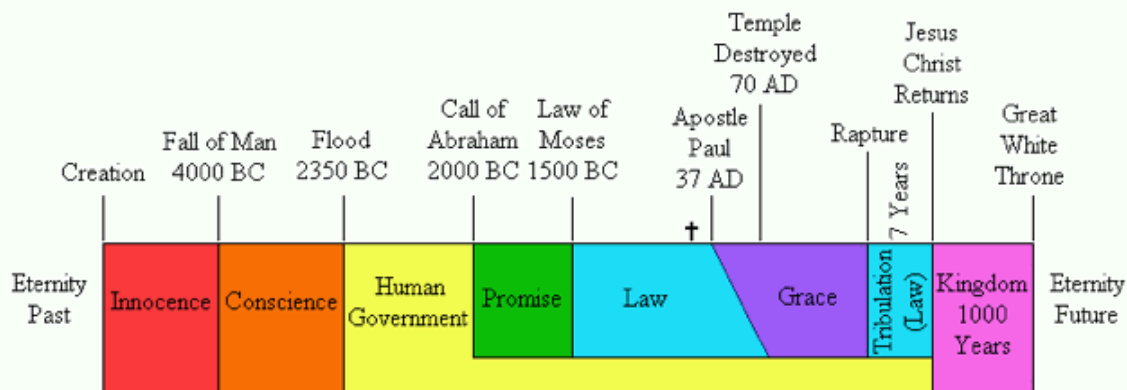
## His revelation to mankind was progressive, in pieces and it came in various ways

- Thruout all of the OT dispensations we have the 'shadows' of Christ and in the NT His 'substance'
- He made these 'ages' thru the Holy Spirit. (Review Matt. 12:32 in light of the Heb. 1:1, 2 context)

## The Basic Dispensations (= The Household Economies of God)

- 1-THE DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE OR FREEDOM—GENESIS 1:28–3:8
  - 2-THE DISPENSATION OF CONSCIENCE OR SELF DETERMINATION—GENESIS 3:9–8:14
  - 3-THE DISPENSATION OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT—GENESIS 8:15–11:32
  - 4-THE DISPENSATION OF PROMISE OR PATRIARCHAL RULE—GENESIS 12:1–EXODUS 18:27
  - 5-THE DISPENSATION OF LAW—EXODUS 19:1–ACTS 1:26
  - 6-THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE—ACTS 2:1–REVELATION 19:21
  - 7-THE DISPENSATION OF THE KINGDOM OR MILLENNIUM—REVELATION 20:1–10
- (see Dispensation Chart)

## Dispensations of the Bible



**For a more detailed timeline of the Bible see 'Ussher's Bible Timeline' handout**

## **50 Major Events in the Bible Storyline by Jonathan Petersen**

**Where do the Major DISPENSATIONS fit into this timeline?**

### **1-THE DISPENSATION OF INNOCENCE OR FREEDOM—GENESIS 1:28-3:8**

Creation, Adam and Eve, innocence — Genesis 1

### **2-THE DISPENSATION OF CONSCIENCE OR SELF DETERMINATION—GENESIS 3:9-8:14**

The Fall (Adam and Eve) — Genesis 3

Noah and the Flood — Genesis 6

### **3-THE DISPENSATION OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT—GENESIS 8:15-11:32**

The Tower of Babel — Genesis 11

### **4-THE DISPENSATION OF PROMISE OR PATRIARCHAL RULE—GENESIS 12:1-EXODUS 18:27**

The Call of Abram — Genesis 12

God makes promises to Abraham — Genesis 15

Abraham AND Isaac tested — Genesis 22

Isaac and Rebekah and the unnamed servant — Genesis 24

Jacob and Esau — Genesis 25

Jacob's children — Genesis 29

Joseph sold by his brothers — Genesis 37

Joseph in Egypt — Genesis 39

Israel in Slavery in Egypt — Exodus 1

The Birth of Moses — Exodus 2

Moses and the Burning Bush — Exodus 3

The Ten Plagues — Exodus 7

God Rescues Israel from Egypt — Exodus 12

### **5-THE DISPENSATION OF LAW—EXODUS 19:1-ACTS 1:26**

God gives the Ten Commandments — Exodus 20

Israel enters the Promised Land (Joshua) — Joshua 1

Israel ruled by judges (Gideon, Samson, etc.) — Judges 1

Israel gets its first king (Saul) — 1 Samuel 9

David is anointed king — 1 Samuel 16

David and Goliath — 1 Samuel 17

David actually becomes king — 2 Samuel 5

Solomon becomes king — 1 Kings 1

Israel is divided: Israel (North) and Judah (South) — 1 Kings 12

Kings rule (mostly bad) for 345 years — 1 Kings 13 and following

Prophets warn Israel of God's coming punishment on the nation (while also promising a glorious future beyond judgment)

Exile, part one: Israel (the northern half), conquered by Assyria — 2 Kings 17

Exile, part two: Judah (the southern half), conquered by Babylon — 2 Kings 25

—See Chart of Israel's and Judah's Kings and Prophets

Israelites return to Israel to rebuild the demolished land and temple — Ezra 1

The completion of the new or second temple — Ezra 6

The Forerunner, John the Baptist

Jesus is born — Matthew 1 and Luke 2

Baptism of Jesus — Matthew 3; Mark 1; and Luke 3

Temptation of Jesus — Matthew 4; Mark 1; and Luke 4

Sermon on the Mount — Matthew 5

The Transfiguration — Matthew 17; Mark 9; and Luke 9



Jesus Affirms He is God the Son — John 8-9

The Triumphal Entry — Matthew 21; Mark 11; Luke 19; and John 12

The Last Supper — Matthew 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; and John 13

Jesus' Betrayal, Trial, Crucifixion — Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; and John 18

Jesus' Resurrection — Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20

The Ascension — Acts 1

### **6-THE DISPENSATION OF GRACE—ACTS 2:1-REVELATION 19:21**

The Holy Spirit Empowers at Pentecost — Acts 2

The church's second martyr — Acts 6

Saul's Conversion — Acts 9

The growth of the church — The book of Acts and the Letters to the Churches

John's Revelation on Patmos— The book of Revelation:

The Revealing of Jesus Christ,

The Churches report card,

The last week of Daniel 9,

### **7-THE DISPENSATION OF THE KINGDOM OR MILLENNIUM—REVELATION 20:1-10**

The Kingdom Age and the final things.

### **What is required of us? In a Word: Submission to His Word**

-The word for submission, *hypotasso*, is a military term: To place under, to be subject to someone or something else.

-**Ps. 138:2b** says this of the relationship of God's Word to God's name: ... **For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.**

-All things are to be submitted unto Him per **1Cor. 15:27, 28**

-**2Cor. 9:13** intimates that we are to submit (obedience is used there) to the Gospel of Christ

-**Romans 10:3** intimates that we are submit to the righteousness of God

-**Eph. 5:21** tells us we are to submit to each other.

-The Word of God just becomes words on paper if we do not Submit to its teachings.

### **Authority and Submission Structures from the Word of God**

-What portion of the Word of God, if any portion, is the overall ruling authority for us in the Church Age Dispensation?

-For us, in this Dispensation of Grace, we are under 'The Apostles Doctrine', Acts 2:42.

-Remember the Church is built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone. Eph. 2:20.

-The Apostles received their foundational teachings from Jesus, who received them from the Father. John 17:8

-Yet He had more for them, but they could not receive it now, but after the Holy Spirit comes He would teach them all things. John 16:12-13

-The Church's final authority within the Word of God are the Epistles, though all of the Word of God has application for us under Grace and does not contradict the NT Gospels or Epistles.

-The Epistles are built on the basic teachings and works of the Gospels and from the Old Testament They all fit together as one integrated message and teaching, without contradiction but with dispensational distinctions.

-But we are under the rules of Grace not The Law of Moses, even though the Law is Holy, Righteous and Good, and has much to teach us. See Rom. 7:12, Rom. 6:14-15, 1Cor. 9:20-21, Gal. 5:18

-The biggest difference change maker between the Old and the New is Christ Crucified.

### **Jesus Who is The Christ is our Example by His Submission**

-Submitted to His earthly parents, Luke 2:51

-Submitted to His Heavenly Father, (John 14:28, 1Cor. 11:3, John 17:4, Phil. 2:5-9)

## **God in His Word and Wisdom Has Established Many Authorities to Rule Over Us During Our Sojourn**

Among them are:

- 1-Submit to God (James 4:7, Heb. 12:9)
- 2-Submission to our Pastors (Heb. 13:17, 1Thes. 5:12-13)
- 3-Younger are to submit to the older (1Pet. 5:5).
- 4-Submit to one another (1Pet. 5:5, Eph. 5:21)
- 5-The Church (the Bride) submits to Christ (The Bridegroom). (Eph. 5:24, Eph. 1:22)
- 6-Wives to husbands. (Col. 3:18, 1Pet. 3:1)
- 7-Workers to their bosses. (1Pet. 2:18, Eph. 6:5)
- 8-Earthly Citizens (including Citizens of Heaven) to the Government and its ordinances (1Pet. 2:13-16, Rom. 13:1-7).
- 9-Children to parents (Col. 3:20, Eph. 6:1-3, Luke 2:51).
- 10-Our spirits are to be subject ('submitted') to us; no one or no other spirit can control our spirit, only us. (1Cor. 14:32)

## **Major Threads Woven Thru The Bible**

- Two Seeds in warfare: Seed of the serpent and the seed of the woman
- Two Cities in warfare: Babylon and Jerusalem
- Two priesthoods
- Israel the 'Second Time' (Acts 7)
- Follow the Rock
- Church Age Gaps
- Redemption
- Two natures in warfare, The Flesh versus the Spirit
- Two Structures: The Tabernacle and the Temple
- Two Kingdoms: God's and Satan's

## **Top Ten Principles For Studying the Old Testament**

When going over the Old Testament we will inject our Top Ten Principles for Studying the Old Testament

### According to the New Testament

In Brief they are:

- 1-One Author, the Holy Spirit But Many Penmen**
- 2-The OT is Primarily About Jesus**
- 3-The OT is God Speaking**
- 4-The OT Was and is Yet to be Fulfilled**
- 5-The OT is the Beginning of the War of the Two Seeds**
- 6-Israel is Israel, the Church is the Church and Israel is Not the Church, Nor the Church Israel**
- 7-The OT Reveals or Pictures the NT**
- 8-The OT was Written for Our Example and Admonition**
- 9-The OT is Fact.**
- 10-All Humans (except Jesus) are Begotten by our Father Adam and have his nature**

## **AN OVERVIEW OF THE BIBLE AND ITS BOOKS**

**First**, the Bible consists of sixty-six separate books penned by over forty authors over a period of 1500 or so years, it is an integrated message system.

**Second**, Every passage, every word, every number, and every name is there for a specific reason.

-A skillful, detailed design pervades the whole.

**Third**, This message system is from outside our dimensions of space and time.

-It is literally Holy Spirit authored from a position of transcendence (outside of time) and immanence (while being within His creation).

**Fourth**, every word and every phrase of the Bible turns around a central person.

**John 1:1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, we beheld His glory. (*the Glory we fall short of*)..

18 No one has seen God at any time. *But* the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared (*made known*) Him.

**John 5:39** I command you search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

**Hebrews 10: 5-7** 5 Therefore, when He (*the Son*) came into the world, He said:

"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body You have prepared for Me.

6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure.

7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come—

In the volume of the book it is written of Me—To do Your will, O God.' "

**The Old Testament Theme** is the account of a nation—its origin, destiny, ups and downs, and its future history that is yet to unfold.

-It was this nation that was to bring the Messiah into the world.

**The New Testament Theme** is the account of The Man, the Creator of the universe whose appearance is the central event of all history.

**The Old Testament Consists of Thirty-Nine Books.**

-The most venerated portion of the Old Testament is the Torah,

-The five books of Moses known also by the Greek word, Pentateuch.

**The Torah Consists of Five Books:**

1. **Genesis** is the book of beginnings—the word itself means "the beginnings."

2. **Exodus** follows, and it describes the birth of the nation out of slavery.

3. **Leviticus** details the laws of that nation, starting with laws that maintain fellowship with God (1John 1:9).

4. **Numbers** tracks the wanderings in the wilderness—the forty years before the new nation was able to enter the land that God had set aside for them.

5. **Deuteronomy** is a review of the laws, literally means second law;

-It is also the book that Jesus quotes from the most.

-The Torah is pivotal to everything we will be dealing with.

-The Torah is followed by twelve historical books which are divided by a major event in Israel's history—the Babylonian captivity.

**Pre and Post Exile Books**

-Joshua to 2 Chronicles are pre-exile (or pre-Babylonian captivity);

-Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther are post-exile.

**Pre-Exile**

6. Joshua succeeded Moses and conquered Canaan.

7. Then came the three hundred years known as the period of the Judges.

8. During this time a fascinating little four-chapter book called Ruth was written.

-Ruth is one of the most important books in the Old Testament.

-You won't understand the book of Revelation unless you understand the book of Ruth.

-Ruth pictures the Kinsman Redeemer.

## Two Sides to Kinsman Redeemer

1-Kinsman redeemer redeemed thru certain qualifications, as pictured in Ruth and fulfilled in the NT

2-He is also the Avenger of Blood

-Revelation pictures that very same Kinsman as the 'Avenger of Blood'

**Numbers 35:18-19 ... the murderer shall surely be put to death.**

**19 The avenger of blood himself shall put the murderer to death; when he meets him, he shall put him to death.**

**Revelation 6:9-10 .... I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held.**

**10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"**

## After the Judges (Ruth falls within the period the Judges) are the Records of the Kingdom Itself

**9. 1 Samuel**—the birth of the kingdom.

**10. 2 Samuel**—the rise and reign of King David.

**11. 1 Kings**—the kingdom divided after David dies, the death of Solomon and the civil war which follows, dividing the kingdom permanently.

**12. 2 Kings**—the history of the divided kingdom.

**13. 1 Chronicles**—the reign of David. (Good to Harmonize 2 Samuel with 1 Chronicles)

**14. 2 Chronicles**—the history of the southern kingdom.

## The Post-Exile history books include

**15. Ezra**—the return from the Babylonian captivity, Re-building of the Temple.

**16. Nehemiah**—the rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem.

**17. Esther**—the escape from extermination under the Persian Empire.

## The Five Books of Poetry—Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs

—are the poetry, hymns, and wisdom of the nation.

**18. Job**—"peaking behind the curtain", into the Spiritual world's impact on the physical world of men.

**19. Psalms** (which is actually five books) is the hymnbook of the nation, which not only contains beautiful hymns and praise but includes many incredible prophecies.

**20. Proverbs** contains, but is not limited to, the Wisdom of Solomon.

**21. Ecclesiastes**, also written by Solomon, talks of the vanity of life 'under the sun' apart from 'The Son'!

**22. Song of Songs** is a mystical book about wedded love and other topics, ultimately about Jesus and His bride.

## Next are the Five Major Prophets

**23. Isaiah** is the Messianic prophet.

**24. Jeremiah** deals primarily with the desolation of Jerusalem.

**25. Lamentations** is Jeremiah's dirge over the loss of Jerusalem.

-These three books are mostly pre-exile, though Lamentations splits the pre and the post exile Major Prophets.

**26. Ezekiel** is in captivity, but in his book he talks about the rebuilding of the Temple and the restoration of Israel when they return to the land.

**27. Daniel's** theme is "the times of the Gentiles."

-Daniel is unique in portraying an overview of all Gentile history from Babylon until the day that God sets up His own kingdom on earth.

-The key to understanding all prophesy and God's timing is given to Daniel in 9:24-27

## The Major Prophets are Followed by Twelve Minor Prophets

-Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah.

-And the last three of the twelve—Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi—prophesied after the return from exile in Babylon.

**28. Hosea** focuses on the apostasy of the Northern Kingdom (many of their situations are similar to modern-day America) and God's love that never gives up on His people.

**29. Joel** speaks of "the day of the Lord," a climax which is also in the future beyond Pentecost.

**30. Amos** speaks of the ultimate rule of the dynasty of David on the planet earth.

**31. Obadiah** focuses on the destruction of Edom and why God hated Esau (Mal. 1:2-3) who is Edom.

**32. Jonah** is a reluctant prophet to Nineveh, capital of the pagan world empire at the time, that repents at the preaching of Jonah.

**33. Micah** is best known for prophesying that Bethlehem would be the birthplace of the Messiah.

**34. Nahum** describes the destruction of Nineveh. Like Jonah, Nahum was sent to Nineveh, but this time they didn't repent.

**35. Habakkuk** contains, among other things, the very interesting phrase "the just shall live by faith," -which becomes a key of three New Testament epistles (Romans, Galatians, Hebrews).

**36. Zephaniah** prophesies many things, one being that when Israel is restored they will again speak Hebrew (3:9), and since May 14, 1948, they have.

**37. Haggai** predicts the rebuilding of the Temple.

**38. Zechariah** has a number of fascinating prophecies about the Second Coming of Christ.

**39. Malachi** has a final message to a disobedient people, and he sets the stage for John the Baptist who comes in the spirit and power of Elijah. That's the Old Testament.

## Overall

-The key idea is a single, integrated design.

-You'll find that the more you know about these books, the more inseparable they are.

-As you begin to develop respect for the integrity of the whole, you'll be amazed at how any confusion, the many seeming paradoxes, and quibbles evaporate.

## LAYING THE GROUNDWORK: NEW TESTAMENT OVERVIEW

### The New Testament Consists of Twenty-Seven Books.

-The first five are historical books—the four Gospels and the book of Acts.

-In a sense they are transitional books, transitioning us from 'psuche' life under the Old Mosaic Covenant

-To 'zoe' life, the life within Jesus, under the New Covenant whose first desired object, Israel has rejected Him-except for a remnant.

-Israel as a nation has been temporarily been set aside (Rom. 11:23-26)

-God has turned to the Gentiles and applied the New Covenant to a people who were not His people

-To provoke His people Israel to jealousy. Rom. 10:19, 11:11, 11:14.

-Twenty-one interpretive letters called the Epistles are next.


-They are interpretations of Jesus' teachings and deeds-especially the cross in the Gospels as well as the Spirit's activities in the Book of Acts)

-The New Testament ends with the climactic book, the book of Revelation.

-Thirteen letters (fourteen if we include Hebrews) were written by the Apostle Paul

-Seven or eight (if we do not include Hebrews with Paul's letters) were written by and to Hebrew Christians.

### Top Ten Principles for Studying the Old Testament: Introduction

The connection: There are by some counts 4,105 NT passages that allude\* to and 352 passages that are a direct# quote from the OT, many from the Greek OT, aka the LXX\*\*. The Bible is one cross  connected book. To fully understand the New we must know the Old and its place in and with the New.

\*Allude to example: See John 1:18

#Direct Quote: See Matt. 3:3

LXX\*\*: 'The Septuagint', the Greek Old Testament

## **The Four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John—are Parallel Yet Distinctive**

1. **Matthew** presents Jesus Christ as the Lion of the tribe of Judah.
2. **Mark** presents Jesus Christ as the Suffering Servant.
3. **Luke** presents Jesus Christ as the Son of Man.
4. **John** presents Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

## **Each of the Four Gospels Presents a Particular Perspective**

- They overlap in many ways yet they each have distinctive vocabularies, emphases, and genealogical perspectives.
- Each is very skillfully designed to present a particular aspect of Jesus Christ.

## **5. Acts** describes the formation of the church in the first 3 decades.

- The book of Acts could really be called “The Acts of the Holy Spirit.”
- Or the continuation of the Work of Jesus Christ thru Holy Spirit and His Disciples.
- It is a Book of Transition (the transitions were difficult on the human side)

## **The Transitions Include, But Are Not Limited to**

- From being under law to being under grace
- From being two people groups to being one church with many people groups by chapter 15
- From bringing sacrifices for sin to the Temple to applying The Once and For All Sacrifice of Jesus Christ
- For everyone anywhere who calls upon the Name of Jesus
- From the Holy Spirit WITH you and then after His resurrection, IN you to UPON the church in four phases (Acts 2 (Jews), Acts 8 (Samaritans), Acts 10 (Gentiles), and Acts 19 (followers of John the Baptist))
- From a predominant Jewish Church chapters 1-15 to a predominant Gentile church, chapter 16 on and even today.

## **The Letters Are Interpretive**

- They are the Apostles Doctrine along with the letters of Peter, James, John, and Jude which are also apologetic.
- They explain the relevance of what has gone before—including both the Old and New Testament.
- Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and 1 and 2 Thessalonians are one group,
- Each book was written to churches with the intention that they would be circulated.
- Paul also wrote four letters to pastors called the Pastoral Epistles: 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon.

## **6. Romans**, called by some the “Gospel According to Paul,” is the definitive statement of Christian doctrine in the New Testament;

- It is comprehensive, well-organized, its linear and one of the most profound books in the New Testament.

## **7–8. 1 Corinthians** and **2 Corinthians** are letters Paul wrote to help establish order in a carnal church.

## **9. Galatians** was probably the key book in the Reformation, distinguishing between law and grace

- it is by grace that we are saved, it is by grace that we live, not by being under the law.

## **10. Ephesians** could be considered the high ground of the New Testament. It could be called “The Church of the Heavlies that Brings Heaven down to earth.”

## **11. Philippians** is “joy through suffering.”

## **12. Colossians** teaches that Christ is pre-eminent above all things, and we should live like He is.

## **13. 1 Thessalonians** declares the mystery of what we call the “Rapture.”

## **14. 2 Thessalonians** clarifies some confusion about the Rapture.

- Both letters focus on Second Coming aspects; they are end-times epistles.

## **15–17. 1 Timothy**, **2 Timothy**, and **Titus** give pastoral advice.



**18. Philemon**, though a short letter, is a model of intercession on behalf of a runaway slave.

-There are many lessons in this one-chapter book.

### **Followed by Eight Jewish-Christian Epistles**

-Hebrews, James, two by Peter, three by John, and one by Jude.

**19. Hebrews** amplifies that the New Covenant is Better than the Old.

-Many people believe Hebrews was written by Paul; others notice that it seems deliberately anonymous.

-One clue may be **Habakkuk 2:4: "the just shall live by faith."**

-Romans quotes from this passage and specifically deals with 'justification': Who are "the just"? How do you become just before God?

-Galatians discusses how the just "shall live," a call-out of religious externalism.

-Hebrews tells us the just shall live "by faith."

-Habakkuk 2:4 is the cornerstone of each of these three epistles,

-Which implies that Paul probably was the writer of Hebrews.

-Even more remarkable is how the Holy Spirit guided the structure of these epistles.

**20. James** talks about faith lived from the inside out and demonstrated every day.

**21. 1 Peter** talks about the persecuted church.

**22. 2 Peter** talks about the coming apostasy and the end times.

**23. 1 John** is the classic epistle on 'God is light' and 'love', confronting early Gnosticism on both fronts.

**24. 2 John** warns about false teachers.

**25. 3 John** speaks on the Godly service of true hospitality versus the false

**26. Jude**, like 2 Peter, discusses the apostasy, plus Jude has some Old Testament roots that are fascinating in their own right.

### **The final book and, in fact, the climactic book of the entire Bible, is the book of Revelation**

**27. Revelation** is more than just the close of the Bible

-It is the consummation of all things.

-Everything that started in Genesis finds its end in the book of Revelation.

-It is the only book in the Bible that has the audacity to pronounce a special blessing on the reader.

-It is the Revelation of Jesus Christ

-His report cards of the Church thru the Age, typified by seven actual local churches

-It is the fulfillment of the Seventieth Week of Daniel Nine

-We see His and our Second coming

-The Kingdom Age

-The Final Judgment

-The New Heavens and Earth

The book's 404 verses contain over eight hundred allusions from the Old Testament.

-So if the book seems strange to our understanding, it's because we haven't done our homework in the Old Testament.

-It is in code, but every code is unraveled for you somewhere else in Scripture or in The Revelation itself, and that's the challenge of this incredible Book.

*The New Testament is in the Old Testament concealed; the Old Testament is in the New Testament revealed.*

### **LET THE ADVENTURE BEGIN!**

It is absolutely astonishing how many controversies about the Bible evaporate once you recognize that the Bible is designed as a whole, not just in broad terms but down to every letter in their original authored languages.