

# Outlines of the Bible

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These outlines can be used by pastors to help establish preaching or teaching sections of each book. They can help any reader in reading of the Bible to see the big picture of the book or section of the Bible as they read it.

My goal has been to keep the outlines simple, most often only two or three levels deep.

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## Outline of Genesis

The book of Genesis is the book of beginnings. The first word in Genesis is the Hebrew בְּרֵאשִׁית (b<sup>e</sup>ray'sheet), which means “in the beginning.”

The word Pentateuch means “five scrolls” and refers to the five books of Moses, each originally on its own scroll. These books are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

Genesis was written by Moses, as was the rest of the Pentateuch. There are internal and external arguments for this statement. First, some of the internal arguments:

- 1) The Pentateuch mentions Mosaic authorship: Exodus 17:14; Deuteronomy 31:9, 24.
- 2) The author seems to be an eyewitness. Moses was certainly that.

Here are some of the external arguments:

- 1) Traditionally the five books have always been taken together by Jews and Christians to be written by Moses.
- 2) Other OT books affirm that Moses wrote the Pentateuch: Joshua 1:7, Dan. 9:11-13.
- 3) Moses was certainly qualified to write the books: Acts 7:22.
- 4) The NT affirms Moses wrote the Pentateuch: John 5:45-47, 7:22-23, Acts 3:22, Rom. 10:5.
- 5) The impression is left with the reader of the Bible is that Moses wrote all of the Pentateuch.

## Brief Outline

The key term for outlining the book is “history” or “generations.” It occurs 13 times in the book and marks 10 major divisions. The outline below reflects these divisions by using the word “History” in each outline point. The three “extra” references to the word “generations” are marked.

I. Creation.....	1:1-2:3
II. History of Creation through the Fall and Cain and Abel .....	2:4-4:26
III. History of Adam’s family through the spread of evil.....	5:1-6:8
IV. History of Noah through the flood.....	6:9-9:29
V. History of Noah’s Sons, Table of Nations, Tower of Babel.....	10:1-11:9
VI. History of Shem’s family to Terah .....	11:10-11:26
VII. History of Terah’s family through Abraham .....	11:27-25:11
VIII. History of Ishmael’s family .....	25:12-18
IX. History of Isaac’s family, account of Jacob.....	25:19-35:29
X. History of Esau’s family, the Edomites .....	36:1-37:1
XI. History of Jacob’s family, Joseph, travel to Egypt.....	37:2-50:26

## Notes

1. Note these three “generations” statements: 10:32, 25:13, and 36:8.
2. We can compute that there were 1656 years between creation and the flood (try it sometime!). Methusaleh died in the year of the flood. Thus, a vast amount of time is summarized within the first few chapters of the Bible.

3. We can date the birth of Abraham to be about 2166 B.C.
4. Note that a main purpose of Genesis is to inform us as to the origin, purpose, and destiny of the people of Israel.
5. Note the emphasis on “blessing” in the book: 1:22, 1:28, 2:3, 5:2, 9:1, 12:2-3, 14:19-20, 17:16, 17:20, 18:18, 22:17-18, 24:1 (27, 31, 35, 48, 60), 25:11, 26:3-4, 26:12, 26:24, 26:29, 27:4 (7, 10, 12, 19, 23, 25, 27, 29-38, 41), 28:1 (3, 4, 6, 14), 30:13, 27, 30, 31:55, 32:26, 29, 35:9, 39:5, 47:7, 10, 48:3 (9, 15, 16, 20), 49:25, 49:28.
6. Note the emphasis on “cursing” in the book: 3:14, 3:17, 4:11, 5:29, 8:21, 9:25, 12:3, 27:12-13, 27:29, 49:7.

## Outline of Exodus

Genesis has provided a complete introduction to the reader so that he knows why Israel is in Egypt. Exodus introduces Israel under much more difficult circumstances. Now God will carry out his promise to extricate the people from their bond slavery and institute the fifth dispensation that we call the dispensation of Mosaic Law. The book is commonly divided into three sections as follows.

### Outline

I. Israel in Egypt .....	1:1-12:36
A. Israelites oppressed in Egypt.....	1:1-22
B. Moses before his call.....	2:1-2:25
1. Birth and early years of Moses .....	2:1-10
2. Murder of Egyptian and flight from Egypt.....	2:11-15
3. Journey from Egypt to Midian.....	2:16-20
4. Taking of Zipporah as wife.....	2:21-25
C. Call of Moses .....	3:1-4:31
1. Burning bush.....	3:1-4:18
2. Journey from Midian to Egypt.....	4:19-26
3. Meeting with Aaron and elders of Israel.....	4:27-31
D. Moses & Pharaoh Meeting #1: straw taken away.....	5:1-23
E. God's covenant reminder .....	6:1-13
F. Genealogies of Moses and Aaron .....	6:14-30
G. Moses & Pharaoh Meeting #2: rod turned to serpent .....	7:1-13
H. The Ten Plagues.....	7:13-12:36
1. River water turned to blood .....	7:13-25
2. Frogs .....	8:1-15
3. Lice .....	8:16-19
4. Flies.....	8:20-32
5. Cattle die .....	9:1-7
6. Boils .....	9:8-12
7. Hail.....	9:13-35
8. Locusts .....	10:1-20
9. Darkness.....	10:21-29
10. First-born killed .....	11:1-12:36
a. Preparation .....	11:1-10
b. Institution of Passover.....	12:1-28
c. The Plague Itself .....	12:29-36
II. Exodus from Egypt to Sinai.....	12:37-18:27
A. Journey from Egypt to Red Sea, Pillars of Cloud and Fire...	12:37-14:20
B. Journey through the Red Sea.....	14:21-31
C. Songs of Moses and Miriam.....	15:1-21
D. Journey from the Red Sea to the wilderness of Shur .....	15:22-26
E. Journey from water-rich Elim to wilderness of Sin	
1. Provision of quail and manna .....	15:27-16:36

F. Journey from wilderness of Sin to Rephidim .....	17:1-18:27
1. Provision of water from the rock in Horeb .....	17:1-7
2. War with Amalek in Rephidim (Moses' arms upheld).....	17:8-16
3. Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, meets and advises Moses ...	18:1-27
III. Israel at Sinai.....	19:1-40:38
A. Journey from Rephidim to wilderness of Sinai.....	19:1-2
B. Fifth Dispensation (Law) Instituted .....	19:3-25
1. Kingdom covenant given and ratified.....	19:1-8
2. Appearance of God on Mt. Sinai .....	19:9-25
D. Giving of the Ten Commandments .....	20:1-26
E. Giving of laws and feasts .....	21:1-23:19
1. Law about servants .....	21:1-11
2. Law about assault.....	21:12-27
3. Law about animals .....	21:28-36
4. Law about private property .....	22:1-15
5. Laws about moral, financial, and religious things .....	22:16-31
6. Laws about justice and property .....	23:1-9
7. Law about the Sabbath year .....	23:10-13
8. Three feasts (unleavened bread, harvest, ingathering)....	23:14-19
F. Promise about the giving of the land .....	23:20-33
G. Agreement of people to the words of the Lord .....	24:1-18
1. Sprinkling of blood on altar and people.....	24:1-8
2. Moses on Mt. Sinai for 40 days and nights.....	24:9-18
H. Specification of the Tabernacle.....	25:1-31:11
1. Offering for supplies .....	25:1-9
2. Design of the ark.....	25:10-22
3. Design of the table for showbread .....	25:23-30
4. Design of the golden candlestick .....	25:31-40
5. Design of the tabernacle itself.....	26:1-37
6. Design of the altar for burnt offering .....	27:1-8
7. Design of the court of the tabernacle .....	27:9-19
8. Tending of the lamp .....	27:20-21
9. Design of priests' garments .....	28:1-14
10. Design of the breastplate of judgment .....	28:15-30
11. Design of sacred vestments.....	28:31-43
12. Description of consecration of Aaron and sons .....	29:1-9
13. Description of sacrifices .....	29:10-46
14. Design of the altar of incense.....	30:1-10
15. Atonement money .....	30:11-16
16. Design of the brass laver.....	30:17-21
17. Anointing oil and incense .....	30:22-38
18. Appointing of workmen.....	31:1-11
I. Between the Specification and Building of the Tabernacle .....	31:12-35:3
1. Reminder of the Sabbath.....	31:12-17
2. Giving of the two tablets.....	31:18

3. The golden calf incident and judgment.....	32:1-35
4. God's command to go up to the promised land.....	33:1-6
5. Tabernacle outside of camp; Moses speaks with God .....	33:7-11
6. Moses' request of assurance of God's presence .....	33:12-23
7. Moses on Mt. Sinai Again for 40 days and nights .....	34:1-28
a. Renewal of tablets, covenant.....	34:1-10
b. Warnings .....	34:11-17
c. Feasts (see 23:14-16).....	34:11-26
8. The Shining and Veiling of Moses' face .....	34:29-35
9. Reminder of the Sabbath.....	35:1-3
J. Building of the Tabernacle .....	35:4-39:43
1. Command for offering .....	35:4-9
2. Command for workmen .....	35:10-19
3. Provision of offering .....	35:20-29
4. Preparation of workmen.....	35:30-36:1
5. Completion of offering .....	36:1-7
6. Making of the tabernacle itself .....	36:8-36:38
7. Making of the ark.....	37:1-9
8. Making of the table .....	37:10-16
9. Making of candlestick.....	37:17-24
10. Making of altar of incense .....	37:25-28
11. Making of anointing oil and incense.....	37:29
12. Making of altar of burnt offering .....	38:1-7
13. Making of brass laver.....	38:8
14. Making of court of tabernacle.....	38:9-20
15. Total amount of supplies offered .....	36:21-31
16. Making of Priests garments .....	39:1-31
17. Completion of Tabernacle construction.....	39:32-43
K. Tabernacle set up and Operations Begin.....	40:1-38
1. God instructs Moses to initiate Tabernacle operations .....	40:1-15
2. Moses sets up the Tabernacle .....	40:16-33
3. Glory of the Lord appears .....	40:34-38

## Notes: Israel Tests God

Numbers 14:22-27 mentions that Israel tested God ten times and did not obey Him. Some of these tests are mentioned in Exodus (#1-3 below).

1. Complaint at Marah about the bitter waters; water made sweet..... 15:22-27
2. Complaint at Sin about hunger; mannah provided .....
3. Complaint at Rephidim about lack of water; water provided .....
4. Complaint about the hardships of living..... Num. 11:1-8
5. Criticism of Miriam and Aaron about Moses' marriage..... Num. 12:1
6. Complaint about the bad report given by the 10 spies..... Num. 14:2



## Outline of Leviticus

Leviticus is one of the most difficult books for the modern reader to grasp because it is so detailed and seemingly so archaic. But it describes very important aspects of Israel's religious life. This high-level outline will help you understand it better.

### Outline

#### I. Law of Offerings, General Instructions ..... 1:1-6:7

The text instructs the Jew as to the various offerings that he must bring to the altar, and the priest as to the basic procedure to do the offering.

- A. Introduction ..... 1:1-2
- B. Burnt Offering ..... 1:1-17
  - 1. A bull ..... 1:3-9
  - 2. A sheep or goat ..... 1:10-13
  - 3. A bird, turtledove or pigeon ..... 1:14-17
- C. Grain Offering ..... 2:1-16
  - 1. Fine flour with oil (some burned, some for priests) ..... 2:1-3
  - 2. Baked or cooked with oil ..... 2:4-10
  - 3. Regulations: no leaven, no honey, but salt required ..... 2:11-13
  - 4. Firstfruits whole grain ..... 2:14-16
- D. Peace Offering (fat on top of burnt offering) ..... 3:1-17
  - 1. From the herd, male or female ..... 3:1-5
  - 2. From the flock, male or female lamb ..... 3:6-11
  - 3. From the flock, goat ..... 3:12-16
  - 4. Prohibition to eat fat or blood ..... 3:17
- E. Sin Offering ..... 4:1-5:13
  - 1. For a Priest's Unintentional Sin ..... 4:1-12
  - 2. For Corporate Unintentional Sin ..... 4:13-21
  - 3. For a Ruler's Unintentional Sin ..... 4:22-26
  - 4. For a Common Person's Unintentional Sin ..... 4:27-35
  - 5. Some specific sins requiring a sin offering ..... 5:1-4
  - 6. Confession and offering, lamb, bird, or flour ..... 5:5-13
- F. Trespass Offering ..... 5:14-6:7
  - 1. Sins of ignorance require a ram and money ..... 5:14-19
  - 2. Sins require 120% restitution to another ..... 6:1-7

#### II. Law of Offerings, Instructions for the Priests ..... 6:8-7:38

The text now adds instructions for the priest as to the details of how to conduct various offerings and what portions may be eaten.

- A. Burnt Offering (fully burned) ..... 6:8-13
- B. Grain Offering ..... 6:14-23
  - 1. When the priest offers grain from another person ..... 6:14-18
  - 2. When the priest offers his own grain offering ..... 6:19-23
- C. Sin Offering ..... 6:24-30

D. Trespass Offering .....	7:1-10
E. Peace Offering .....	7:11-36
1. Instructions about eating the offering .....	7:11-21
2. Prohibition to eat fat or blood .....	7:22-27
3. The portion for the priests .....	7:28-36
F. Summary of the Law of Offerings .....	7:37-38
III. The Priestly Ministry .....	8:1-10:20
A. Consecration of Aaron and His Sons .....	8:1-36
B. Beginning of the Priestly Ministry .....	9:1-24
C. Sinful Ministry of Nadab and Abihu .....	10:1-7
D. Proper Priestly Conduct .....	10:8-11
E. Completion of the day's ministry .....	10:12-20
IV. Regulations .....	11:1-20:27
A. Clean and unclean animals .....	11:1-47
B. Childbirth .....	12:1-8
C. Leprosy .....	13:1-59
D. Cleansing a leper or leprous building .....	14:1-47
E. Bodily discharges .....	15:1-32
F. The High Priest's Day of Atonement ritual .....	16:1-34
G. Law of blood .....	17:1-14
H. Uncleaness due to dead animals .....	17:15-16
I. Sexual morality .....	18:1-30
J. Various laws .....	19:1-37
K. Penalties for Various Infractions .....	20:1-27
V. Regulations for the Priests .....	21:1-22:16
A. All priests' handling of death, grieving, marriage .....	21:1-9
B. The High Priest's handling of death, grieving, marriage .....	21:10-15
C. Imperfect priests .....	21:16-24
D. When the priest and his family can eat of the offerings .....	22:1-16
VI. Acceptable Offerings .....	22:17-33
VII. Weekly and Annual Feasts .....	23:1-44
A. Sabbath .....	23:1-3
B. Passover and Unleavened Bread .....	23:4-8
C. Firstfruits .....	23:9-14
D. Weeks .....	23:15-22
E. Trumpets .....	23:23-25
F. Day of Atonement .....	23:26-32
G. Tabernacles .....	23:33-44
VIII. Various Laws .....	24:1-25:55
A. Tabernacle Instructions .....	24:1-9
B. Law regarding blasphemy .....	24:10-16, 23

C. Lex Talionis.....	24:17-22
D. Seventh Year Sabbath and 50 <sup>th</sup> Year .....	25:1-22
E. Redemption of property and persons sold out of poverty .....	25:23-55
IX. Blessings and Curses.....	26:1-46
A. Exhortation to keep the first table of the Law .....	26:1-2
B. Promise of blessing for obedience .....	26:3-13
C. First round of curses for disobedience .....	26:14-17
D. Second round of curses for disobedience.....	26:18-20
E. Third round of curses for disobedience .....	26:21-22
F. Fourth round of curses for disobedience .....	26:24-26
G. Fifth round of curses for disobedience.....	26:27-39
H. God’s promise to remember the covenant .....	26:40-45
I. Summary Statement of Leviticus .....	26:46
X. Redemption of property and persons dedicated to God.....	27:1-34
A. Of persons .....	27:1-8
B. Of an animal .....	27:9-13
C. Of a house.....	27:14-15
D. Of a field .....	27:16-25
E. Exceptions of firstborn or unclean animals .....	27:26-27
F. Certain un-redeemable things .....	27:28-33
G. Summary of the Book .....	27:34

## Outline of Numbers

The book of Numbers covers the initial preparation for entry into the promised land and the failure of the people to obey God. It then summarizes key events in the 40 years of wilderness wandering.

### Outline

- I. The First Generation ..... 1:1-25:18
  - A. Census of able-bodied men at least 20 years old (603,550)..... 1:1-46
  - B. The Levites were excluded from above census..... 1:47-54
  - C. Configuration of the camp..... 2:1-34
  - D. Census of all Levites (at least one month old, 22,000) ..... 3:1-39
    - 1. Census of firstborn of Israel (22,273) ..... 3:40-43
    - 2. Redemption of 273 "extra" Israelite firstborn..... 3:44-51
  - E. Levitical Duties ..... 4:1-33
    - 1. Duties of Sons of Kohath..... 4:1-21
    - 2. Duties of Eleazar the son of Aaron ..... 4:16
    - 3. Duties of Sons of Gershon ..... 4:22-28
    - 4. Duties of Sons of Merari..... 4:29-33
  - F. Census of 30- to 50-year old Levites ..... 4:34-49
    - 1. Census of Kohathites (2,750)..... 4:34-37
    - 2. Census of Gershonites (2,630)..... 4:38-41
    - 3. Census of Merarites (3,200)..... 4:42-45
  - G. Various Laws ..... 5:1-6:21
    - 1. Cleansing of camp..... 5:1-4
    - 2. Law of recompense ..... 5:5-10
    - 3. Law of jealousy..... 5:11-31
    - 4. Law of the Nazarite..... 6:1-21
    - 5. The Aaronic Blessing..... 6:22-27
  - H. Tabernacle Dedication and operation ..... 7:1-8:26
    - 1. Offerings for dedication of the altar, one for each tribe ..... 7:1-88
    - 2. Lighting of the Lamps..... 7:89-8:4
    - 3. Cleansing of the Levites..... 8:5-23
    - 4. Age of service for Levites (25 to 50) ..... 8:24-26
  - I. Passover kept ..... 9:1-14
    - 1. The people obey God's command ..... 9:1-5
    - 2. Question of who can keep Passover..... 9:6-14
  - J. The cloud over the tabernacle and its guidance ..... 9:15-23
  - K. Journey from Sinai to wilderness of Paran ..... 10:1-36
    - 1. Silver trumpets and order of camp dispersal..... 10:1-10
    - 2. Israel breaks camp and moves from Sinai ..... 10:11-36
  - L. The burden of caring for the people ..... 11:1-34
    - 1. Israel complains to Moses..... 11:1-8
    - 2. Moses complains to the Lord..... 11:9-15
    - 3. 70 elders appointed to help bear Moses' burden ..... 11:16-30
    - 4. Abundant quail provided, and judgment by plague ..... 11:31-34

M. Aaron and Miriam Complain .....	11:35-12:16
1. Journey from Kibroth-hattaavah to Hazeroth .....	11:35
2. Complaint of Miriam and Aaron.....	12:1-9
3. Miriam punished with leprosy and then healed .....	12:10-15
4. Journey from Hazeroth to wilderness of Paran.....	12:16
N. Israel's rebellion and failure to enter the promised land .....	13:1-14:45
1. 12 spies sent .....	13:1-25
2. 12 spies report (Caleb & Joshua for, 10 against) .....	13:26-33
3. Israel's rebellion and God's wrath at their lack of belief... ..	14:1-12
4. Moses' intercession .....	14:13-19
5. God's pardon and punishment.....	14:20-35
6. Death of 10 spies; failed attempt to enter the land.....	14:36-45
O. Additional Laws .....	15:1-31
1. Law of Offerings.....	15:1-21
2. Sins of ignorance.....	15:24-31
3. The Sabbath .....	15:32-36
4. Fringes on garments for reminders of the law .....	15:37-41
P. Rebellion of Korah .....	16:1-50
1. Challenge to Moses' authority.....	16:1-15
2. Korah, 250 cohorts killed in judgment .....	16:16-40
3. Murmuring of the whole congregation and plague.....	16:41-50
4. Demonstration of Aaron's appointment by the Lord .....	17:1-13
Q. More Laws .....	18:1-19:22
1. Levites' responsibility .....	18:1-7
2. Offerings to support the Levites .....	18:8-32
3. Sacrifice of red heifer for purification .....	19:1-10
4. Law concerning death and uncleanness.....	19:11-22
R. Moses fails to honor God .....	20:1-12
1. Journey into desert of Zin and Kadesh; death of Miriam .....	20:1
2. Provision of water at Meribah.....	20:2-11
3. Moses' disobedience .....	20:11-13
S. Continued Journeys .....	20:14-21:35
1. Edom refuses Israel's request for passage.....	20:14-21
2. Journey from Kadesh to Mount Hor .....	20:22
3. Death of Aaron (123 years old) .....	20:23-29
4. War with Canaanites at Hormah .....	21:1-3
5. Journey from mount Hor by the Red Sea.....	21:4
6. Complaint of the people and fiery serpents .....	21:5-9
7. Journey Oboth through many places to Pisgah.....	21:10-20
8. War with Amorites, defeat of Sihon .....	21:21-30
9. War with Bashan, defeat of Og.....	21:31-35
T. King Balak of Moab and False Prophet Balaam .....	22:1-25:18
1. Balak calls for Balaam to come and curse Israel .....	22:1-7
2. God's instruction to Balak not to curse Israel .....	22:8-12
3. Balak's persistence .....	22:13-20
4. Balaam's travel to meet Balak; Balaam's donkey .....	22:21-35

5. Balak and Balaam meet .....	22:36-41
6. First prophecy of Balaam.....	23:1-12
7. Second prophecy of Balaam .....	23:13-26
8. Third prophecy of Balaam .....	23:27-24:25
9. Adultery and idolatry with the Moabites .....	25:1-3
10. Judgment and plague.....	25:4-5
11. Phineas' zeal for God .....	25:6-15
12. Command to war with the Midianites.....	25:16-18
II. The Second Generation.....	26:1-36:13
A. Census .....	26:1-65
1. Able-bodied men (at least 20 years old, 601,730) .....	26:1-51
2. Land to be divided proportionally.....	26:52-56
3. Census of Levites (at least one month old, 23,000).....	26:57-65
4. Summary: none survived from the first generation .....	26:63-65
B. Law of Inheritance (Daughters of Zelophehad, Part 1).....	27:1-11
C. Moses to view the promised land and anoint Joshua .....	27:12-23
D. Laws of offerings .....	28:1-30:16
1. Daily (morning and evening) offerings.....	28:1-8
2. Sabbath offerings .....	28:9-10
3. Monthly offerings .....	28:11-15
4. Passover and Feast of Unleavened bread and offerings..	28:16-31
5. Feast of Trumpets and offerings .....	29:1-11
6. Feast of Tabernacles and offerings .....	29:12-40
7. Vows (husband intervention).....	30:1-16
E. Battle with the Midianites .....	31:1-54
1. The battle, including death of kings and Balaam.....	31:1-11
2. Distribution of the spoils, offerings .....	31:12-54
F. Inheritance of Reuben and Gad east of Jordan .....	32:1-42
G. Summary of Journeys from Egypt through the wilderness.....	33:1-49
H. Directions for conquest of Canaan.....	33:50-36:13
1. Command to fully conquer the land of Canaan .....	33:50-56
2. Borders of the land.....	34:1-15
3. Appointment of leaders to divide the land.....	34:16-29
4. Inheritance of the Levites.....	35:1-8
5. Cities of refuge, laws about murder .....	35:9-34
I. Law of Inheritance (Daughters of Zelophehad, Part 2).....	36:1-13

## Notes

1. The parallel passages to Numbers 27:12-23 is Deuteronomy 34.
2. Chapter 32 includes the agreement of Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Mansseh to help the other tribes in war on west of Jordan.

## Outline of Deuteronomy

This last book of the Pentateuch contains the record of the instruction of Moses to Israel as the nation was still on the east side of the Jordan. Moses would not get to enter the Promised Land. But he did instruct the nation by reviewing their history, giving them the law a second time (deuteros=second, nomos=law). The text is full of law.

### Outline

- I. Introduction to Moses' speeches to Israel..... 1:1-4
  
- II. Moses Reviews Israel's History After the Exodus ..... 1:5-3:29
  - A. Command to journey to the Promised Land ..... 1:5-8
  - B. Leaders nominated and appointed..... 1:9-18
  - C. Israel disobeys God by not entering Promised Land..... 1:19-40
  - D. Israel disobeys God's judgment against them..... 1:41-46
  - E. Wilderness journeys for 38 years ..... 2:1-25
  - F. Defeat of Amorites Sihon (Heshbon) and Og (Bashan) ..... 2:26-3:22
  - G. Moses not permitted to enter the land..... 3:23-29
  
- III. Giving the Law Again..... 4:1-26:19
  - A. Exhortation to obedience; eschew idolatry ..... 4:1-40
  - B. Cities of Refuge..... 4:41-43
  - C. Introduction to the review of God's law ..... 4:44-49
  - D. Review of the Ten Commandments..... 5:1-33
  - E. Love for God should be the foundation of obedience ..... 6:1-25
  - F. Holiness is crucial to the people's relationship with God ..... 7:1-26
  - G. Remember (by obedience) that God is your provider..... 8:1-20
  - H. Frequent rebellions of Israel and Moses' intercession..... 9:1-10:11
  - I. Fear God, walk in His ways, love Him, serve Him..... 10:12-22
  - J. The blessing and the curse of the covenant..... 11:1-32
  - K. Single central altar to the true God, and support of Levites ..... 12:1-32
  - L. Dealing with false prophecy and idolatry..... 13:1-18
  - M. Various laws, because Israel is a holy people ..... 14:1-26:19
    - 1. Mourning..... 14:1-2
    - 2. Clean and unclean animal meat ..... 14:3-21
    - 3. Tithing, including every third-year tithe..... 14:22-29
    - 4. The Lord's release from debts and helping the poor ..... 15:1-11
    - 5. Bondservants and the seventh year..... 15:12-18
    - 6. Offering of firstborn animals ..... 15:19-22
  - N. Review of the Feasts ..... 16:1-
    - 1. Passover ..... 16:1-8
    - 2. Feast of Weeks/Harvest/Firstfruits/Pentecost..... 16:9-12
    - 3. Feast of Tabernacles ..... 16:13-15
    - 4. The men are required to appear at all three..... 16:16-17
  - O. More Laws ..... 16:18-26:19
    - 1. Justice..... 16:18-20

2. Idolatry and proper sacrifices.....	16:21-17:7
3. Judging hard cases .....	17:8-13
4. Laws for future kings .....	17:14-20
5. “Inheritance” of priests and Levites.....	18:1-8
6. Pagan practices forbidden .....	18:9-14
7. Israel was to listen to God’s prophet, not pagans .....	18:15-22
8. Cities of Refuge and roads; law for murder .....	19:1-13
9. Property boundaries .....	19:14
10. Law against false witnesses .....	19:15-21
11. War.....	20:1-20
12. Murder mystery.....	21:1-9
13. Treatment of female captives.....	21:10-14
14. Law of firstborn .....	21:15-17
15. Rebellious children .....	21:18-21
16. A (justly) hanged man is accursed by God .....	21:22-23
17. Helping neighbors with lost animals and property .....	22:1-4
18. Men’s and women’s clothing.....	22:5
19. Miscellaneous laws .....	22:6-12
20. Sexual morality .....	22:13-30
21. People who are treated differently .....	23:1-8
22. Cleanliness/hygiene .....	23:9-14
23. Miscellaneous laws .....	23:15-25
24. Divorce.....	24:1-4
25. Miscellaneous laws .....	24:5-25:4
26. Levirate marriage .....	25:5-10
27. Miscellaneous laws .....	25:11-19
28. Firstfruits and tithes and remembrance of history .....	26:1-15
29. Summary of the laws just cited, for Israel’s good .....	26:16-19
IV. Instructions for when Israel enters the land .....	27:1-34:12
A. Build stone monument and altar .....	27:1-10
B. Ritual portraying the blessing and cursing of the law .....	27:11-26
C. Prosperity of obedience, including international prominence.....	28:1-14
D. Curses of disobedience, with international shame .....	28:15-68
E. Covenant renewed .....	29:1-29
F. Returning to God after failure will result in blessing .....	30:1-10
G. Summary of the Law is to love and obey; this is not obscure ...	30:11-20
H. Joshua to be new leader .....	31:1-8
I. Read the Law every seven years at Feast of Tabernacles.....	31:9-13
J. God foretells of Moses’ death and Israel’s apostasy .....	31:14-18
K. Use a song to remind the nation of the above prophecy .....	31:19-21
L. Moses wrote the song, inaugurated Joshua, finished the Law ...	31:22-30
M. The Song of Moses reviews the unrighteousness of Israel .....	32:1-43
N. Moses exhorts the people.....	32:44-47
O. God instructs Moses about his death.....	32:48-52
P. Moses blesses the tribes.....	33:1-29



Q. Death of Moses ..... 34:1-8  
R. Epilogue ..... 34:9-12

## Notes

1. *Word* or *words* is found in in 50 verses of the book of Deuteronomy, including 1:1 and the famous 8:3 quoted by Jesus during His wilderness temptation.
2. Note that obedience to the Law of God came with a promise of physical longevity: 5:33, 6:2, 8:1.
3. It is worth noting that “man stealing” or kidnapping for slavery is assigned by God the death penalty (24:7). Human trafficking for any reason is repulsive to God.
4. Note the opposite fate of obedience and disobedience with the “head” and “tail” metaphors (28:13, 44).
5. The conundrum in 29:2-4 of “seeing but not seeing” is resolved by the doctrine of regeneration. Before salvation, a person can see events and truths but not grasp them in a meaningful way. When God illuminates the person’s eyes, then he can see with true understanding what those events mean.

## Outline Joshua

Joshua assumed leadership over the nation after the death of Moses. He was the new theocratic leader: not exactly a king, but close. In the system established by God through Moses, he did not have all authority because of the direct revelatory channel to God and the separation of religious powers.

### Outline

- I. Preparation and initial entrance to promised land..... 1:1-5:12
  - A. God commands and encourages Joshua..... 1:1-9
  - B. Joshua commands the people to prepare to cross Jordan ..... 1:10-18
  - C. Spies sent to Jericho; Rahab protects them ..... 2:1-24
  - D. Israel crosses Jordan..... 3:1-17
  - E. Memorial erected to remind future generations ..... 4:1-9
  - F. Israel completes the Jordan crossing ..... 4:10-24
  - G. New generation is circumcised ..... 5:1-9
  - H. Passover celebrated; manna ceases ..... 5:10-12
  
- II. Conquering the nation-states of the promised land..... 5:13-13:6
  - A. Lord speaks to Joshua about taking Jericho ..... 5:13-6:5
  - B. Defeat of Jericho ..... 6:6-27
  - C. Achan's sin, discovery, and punishment ..... 7:1-26
  - D. Defeat of Ai..... 8:1-29
  - E. Covenant renewal service ..... 8:30-35
  - F. Gibeonites trick Israelites ..... 9:1-27
  - G. Gibeon attacked; defended by Israel ..... 10:1-27
  - H. Defeat of southern nation-states..... 10:28-43
  - I. Defeat of northern nation-states under Hazor..... 11:1-15
  - J. Summary of land taken and kings conquered ..... 11:16-12:24
  - K. Land remaining to be taken..... 13:1-6
  
- III. Division of the Land
  - A. East of Jordan: Reuben, Gad, ½ Manasseh..... 13:7-33
  - B. West of Jordan: 9 ½ tribes..... 14:1-22:34
    - 1. Introduction..... 14:1-5
    - 2. Caleb inherits Hebron ..... 14:6-15
    - 3. Borders of Judah ..... 15:1-12
    - 4. Caleb's inheritance is within Judah ..... 15:13-19
    - 5. Cities of Judah..... 15:20-63
    - 6. Borders of Ephraim..... 16:1-10
    - 7. Borders of West Manasseh ..... 17:1-18
    - 8. Survey and lots cast for rest of land..... 18:1-10
    - 9. Borders of Benjamin ..... 18:11-20
    - 10. Cities of Benjamin ..... 18:21-28
    - 11. Cities of Simeon, within Judah's borders ..... 19:1-9
    - 12. Borders and cities of Zebulun ..... 19:10-16

13. Borders and cities of Issachar .....	19:17-23
14. Borders and cities of Asher .....	19:24-31
15. Borders and cities of Naphtali.....	19:32-39
16. Borders and cities of Dan.....	19:40-48
17. City for Joshua .....	19:49-50
18. Summary of inheritance for the tribes .....	19:51
C. Cities of refuge .....	20:1-9
D. Cities for the Levites .....	21:1-42
E. God’s promise fulfilled.....	21:43-45
F. Reuben, Gad, and half Manasseh return east.....	22:1-9
G. Controversy over memorial altar .....	22:10-34
IV. Close of the period of conquest .....	23:1-?????????
A. Joshua charges the people to love God, finish conquest.....	23:1-16
B. Joshua reviews Israel’s history with the nation.....	24:1-13
C. Joshua calls Israel to fear the Lord and serve Him .....	24:14-15
D. Covenant renewed, with warnings.....	24:16-28
E. Joshua and Eleazar the priest die.....	24:29-33

## Notes

1. The people of Israel were supposed to circumcise their male children on the 8<sup>th</sup> day after birth. For the entire wilderness wandering they did not exercise that mark of the Abrahamic covenant and thus were in disobedience. The episode in chapter 5 corrects that disobedience.
2. Achan brazenly violated clear instructions given to the people. His covetousness made him willing to sin to get what he wanted. Had he trusted the Lord, he would have partaken of spoils later in the conquest—and if not garments and gold (see Joshua chapter 8), then land, homes, vineyards, etc. when the land was distributed.
3. Joshua 12:20 explains that the LORD hardened the hearts of the kings of the land to resist God’s people so that they could be destroyed by the nation of Israel. Hardening of the heart is of particular importance in Exodus with Pharaoh. This was in fulfillment of more ancient prophecy found in Genesis 15:16. “The iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete” alludes to the fact that God was permitting those nations to go along in sin, giving them plenty of time to repent, but knowing that they would not choose to do so. When the time was fulfilled, God knew He would be sending judgment upon them.
4. Note the repetition of the statements about Levi, who received no inheritance (13:14, 13:33). Note particularly what *was* their inheritance. See also 14:3, 18:7.
5. Great detail about the borders of the tribal regions are found starting in chapter 15.
6. Important footnotes are left in the text to show that the people of Israel did not complete the task God gave them—to drive out or eliminate the inhabitants of the land. Judah did not finish removing the Jebusites from Jerusalem (15:63), nor the Ephraimites the Canaanites (16:10). See also 17:12.
7. Chapters 15-17 address the tribes that went to the north and those to the south. But as of chapter 18, seven of the tribes did not have their allotment of land set. Joshua indicates in 18:3 that they had neglected to get on with the program.

## Outline of Judges

The book of Judges recounts the history of Israel between Joshua and Samuel, about 325 years.

### Outline

- I. Introduction..... 1:1-3:4
  - A. Further, but partial, conquest of the land ..... 1:1-3:6
  - B. Summary of the book of Judges..... 2:1-3:4
  
- II. Cycles of Apostasy, Oppression, and Relief..... 3:5-16:31
  - A. Mesopotamia/Othniel, Moab/Ehud, Philistia/Shamgar ..... 3:5-3:31
  - B. Canaan/Deborah and Barak ..... 4-5
  - C. Midian/Gideon (Jerubbaal) ..... 6-8
  - D. Abimelech the non-judge ..... 9
  - E. Tola, Jair ..... 10:1-5
  - F. Ammon/Jephthah ..... 11-12:7
  - G. Ibzan, Elon, Abdon ..... 12:8-12:15
  - H. Philistia/Samson..... 13:1-16:31
  
- III. Examples of Apostasy..... 17-21
  - A. Micah's images, priest, and the Danites ..... 17-18
  - B. The Levite, his concubine, and the Benjamites ..... 19-21

### Notes: Theme Verses

1. "And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD and served Baalim."  
2:11, 3:7, 3:12, 4:1, 6:1, 8:33, 10:6, 13:1
2. "In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes." 17:6, 18:1, 19:1, 21:25

## Outline of Ruth

The book of Ruth recounts the story of Elimelech, Naomi, Ruth, and Boaz. It is important in Biblical history because it establishes the family history of David.

### Outline

- I. Naomi Widowed and Ruth Comes into Israel ..... 1:1-1:22
  - A. Deaths of Elimelech, Mahlon, Chilion in Moab ..... 1:1-5
  - B. Orpah Returns; Ruth Stays with Naomi..... 1:6-18
  - C. Naomi and Ruth Return to Bethlehem..... 1:19-22
  
- II. Boaz Shows Kindness to Ruth and Naomi ..... 2:1-23
  - A. Ruth Happens Upon the Field of Boaz ..... 2:1-7
  - B. Kindness of Boaz to Ruth ..... 2:8-16
  - C. Naomi Advises Ruth ..... 2:17-23
  
- III. The Marriage Proposal..... 3:1-18
  - A. Naomi Advises Ruth Again ..... 3:1-5
  - B. Ruth Discreetly Proposes Levirate Responsibility to Boaz ..... 3:6-9
  - C. Boaz Takes Responsibility, If Nearer Relative Will Not..... 3:10-18
  
- IV. The Redemption of Ruth..... 4:1-21
  - A. Boaz Makes Arrangements Before the City Elders ..... 4:1-12
  - B. Boaz Marries Ruth and They Have a Son, Obed ..... 4:13
  - C. Blessedness of Naomi ..... 4:14-17
  - D. The Lineage of David the King ..... 4:18-22

### Notes: Important Concepts

1. **Gleaning from the Field.** Lev 19:9-10 teaches that the farmers were not to harvest every last bit of grain from their fields. This was to provide some for the poor and strangers to harvest for themselves. Note that the Barley harvest starts in April and can run until July in some areas of Israel.
  
2. **Kinsman redeemer.** Close relative responsible for avenging the blood of a killed family member, one who would buy property or take care of other legal matters for his relative. Lev 25:25.
  
3. **Levirate marriage.** If a man died with no children, his brother was to take the widow and have a child with her, in the brother's name, in order to continue the family line. Deut 25:5-10.
  
4. Was there a tie between the office of redeemer and levirate marriage? Possibly. Ruth 4:4 speaks of purchasing land; 4:5 ties that specifically with carrying out the levirate responsibility, and in 3:13 Boaz says he will "redeem" Ruth and this clearly implies marriage.

5. **Character of Boaz.** Wealthy (2:1), godly (2:4), kind (2:8-9, 14-16; cf. Isa 58:6-7, Ps. 41:1).
6. **Character of Ruth.** Good reputation (2:11, 3:11), faith in the true God (2:11). Note Matt. 1:3-6.

## Outline of 1 Samuel

The book of 1 Samuel recounts the story of Samuel, his relationship to the first two kings of Israel, Saul and David, and the history of the start of the monarchy.

### Outline

- I. The Birth of Samuel and His Call..... 1:1-3:21
  - A. Distress of Hannah and Samuel’s birth and dedication .... 1:1-1:2:11
  - B. Sin’s of Eli’s sons and the rebuke of Eli.....2:12-17, 22-36
  - C. Samuel’s early life ..... 2:18-21
  - D. Samuel’s call to the prophetic office ..... 3:1-21
  
- II. Loss of the Ark to the Philistines and Its Recovery..... 4:1-7:17
  - A. Loss of the Ark of the Covenant; Death of Eli and his sons... 4:1-22
  - B. Philistine possession of the Ark brings curse ..... 5:1-12
  - C. Return of the Ark to Israel ..... 6:1-21
  - D. Israel repents and Philistines are conquered ..... 7:1-14
  - E. Samuel was the last of the judges in Israel ..... 7:15-17
  
- III. Selection of Saul and His Reign ..... 8:1-15:35
  - A. Samuel’s sons did not judge honestly..... 8:1-3
  - B. Israel demands a king and the Lord’s reply ..... 8:4-22
  - C. Saul anointed as first king; Spirit comes on him ..... 9:1-10:16
  - D. Saul installed as king ..... 10:17-27
  - E. Saul leads Israel in victory over Ammon..... 11:1-13
  - F. Samuel’s address to the people; their confession ..... 11:14-12:25
  - G. Saul leads Israel against Philistines .....13:1-7, 15-14:52
  - H. Saul offers sacrifices to the Lord ..... 13:8-14\*
  - I. Saul spares Agag and the spoil from the Amalekites ..... 15:1-35\*
  
- IV. Selection of David and the Conflict Between David and Saul .... 16:1-31:13
  - A. David anointed as next king; Spirit comes on him ..... 16:1-13
  - B. Spirit of God departs from Saul..... 16:14-23
  - C. David and Goliath ..... 17:1-58
  - D. Conflict between Saul, David, Jonathan ..... 18:1-24:22
  - E. Samuel’s death..... 25:1
  - F. David, Nabal, and Abigail ..... 25:2-44
  - G. More conflict between Saul, David ..... 26:1-27:12
  - H. Saul consults the medium at Endor..... 28:1-25\*
  - I. David defeats the Amalekites ..... 29:1-30:31
  - J. Death of Saul, Jonathan, his other two sons ..... 31:1-13

### Notes

1. Samuel’s name means “heard by God.” This is indicated in 1:20 and 1:27.
2. The \* symbol in the outline indicates egregious sins of Saul for which the kingdom was taken away from him and his family line.

3. Notice the contrast between 10:24 and 16:7.
4. We must correlate of Deut 17:14-20 with 1 Sam chapter 8, 12:17; and 13:14, chapter 16 regarding the kingship in Israel in order to understand 1 Samuel properly.
5. Many have rightly suggested that David was meant to be Israel's first king.
6. Notice the corruption of the priesthood, particularly chapter 2.
7. Notice the improper use of the Ark in 4:3.



## Outline of 2 Samuel

The book of 2 Samuel recounts the history of David, and continues the history of the Israelite monarchy started in 1 Samuel.

### Outline

- I. David Secures the Kingdom over Southern and Northern Tribes ... 1:1-7:29
  - A. David's reaction to Saul's death ..... 1:1-1:27
  - B. David made king over Judah; reigns in Hebron..... 2:1-7
  - C. David secures the kingdom against Saul's house ..... 2:8-4:12
  - D. David made king over remainder of tribes; reigns in Zion ..... 5:1-16
  - E. David secures the kingdom against the Philistines ..... 5:17-25
  - F. The Ark brought to Zion ..... 6:1-6:23
  - G. The Davidic Covenant; David's desire to build the temple .... 7:1-29
  
- II. David Extends the Kingdom..... 8:1-10:19; 12:26-31
  - A. War against Philistia, Moab, Syria, Ammon, Amalek..... 8:1-18
  - B. David shows kindness to Mephibosheth, Saul's son ..... 9:1-13
  - C. War against Ammon, Syria.....10:1-19; 12:26-31
  
- III. David's Sin with Bathsheba..... 11:1-12:25
  - A. Adultery and murder ..... 11:1-27
  - B. David repents at the prodding of Nathan ..... 12:1-14
  - C. David and Bathsheba's first child dies..... 12:15-23
  - D. Solomon born..... 12:24-25
  
- IV. Absalom's Revolt Against David ..... 13:1-19:14
  - A. Amnon rapes Tamar; Absalom takes revenge ..... 13:1-33
  - B. Absalom flees from David and then returns ..... 13:34-14:33
  - C. Absalom revolts against David; David flees..... 15:1-17:29
  - D. David defeats Absalom; Joab kills Absalom ..... 18:1-19:14
  
- V. David Re-secures the Kingdom ..... 19:15-24:25
  - A. Sheba's revolt and death ..... 20:1-26
  - B. Saul's sons killed ..... 21:1-14
  - C. David defeats Philistines..... 21:15-22
  - D. David's psalm of victory..... 22:1-51
  - E. David's last words; his special forces/body guards ..... 23:1-39
  - F. David numbers Israel ..... 24:1-25

### Notes

1. David's numbering of Israel in chapter 24 was among the egregious sins of David from which great difficulties came. Notice from chapter 13 on how David's house was torn apart. Sin has consequences, even if forgiven.

2. Chapter 12 is parallel to Psalm 32 and 51.
3. Samuel 22 is nearly identical to Psalm 18.
4. Key verses: 11:27b.
5. Food for thought: Why does the Bible contain verses like 2 Sam 23:20?
6. Notice 2 Sam 6:1-7 where the Ark is carried on a wagon; Num 7:1-9 and 4:4-6 clearly say that the Ark and the other furniture of the tabernacle was to be carried by hand by the Kohathites, and not on wagons.
7. Notice the importance of 2 Sam 7 (Davidic covenant) throughout the rest of history

## Outline of 1 Kings

The book of 1 Kings recounts the death of David, the history of Solomon, the division of the Kingdom into northern and southern sections, several of the kings of those two kingdoms, and Elijah the prophet.

### Outline

- I. Death of David and Transfer of Kingdom to Solomon..... 1:1-2:46
  - A. Sickness of David ..... 1:1-4
  - B. Plot of Adonijah and promise of the kingdom to Solomon . 1:5-1:31
  - C. Solomon coronated king ..... 1:32-53
  - D. David’s last words to Solomon ..... 2:1-12
  - E. Solomon secures the kingdom ..... 2:13-2:46
  
- II. Solomon’s Activities..... 3:1-11:43
  - A. Marriage to Pharaoh’s daughter..... 3:1-2
  - B. Prayer for wisdom..... 3:3-28
  - C. Solomon’s court, wealth and wisdom..... 4:1-34
  - D. Solomon’s pact with Hiram of Tyre ..... 5:1-18
  - E. The building of the temple and other buildings ..... 6:1-7:51
  - F. The dedication of the temple..... 8:1-66
  - G. Renewal of Davidic covenant ..... 9:1-9
  - H. Solomon’s fame, wisdom, prosperity ..... 9:10-10:29
  - I. Solomon’s many wives, idolatry, and God’s anger ..... 11:1-13
  - J. Solomon’s enemies aroused by the Lord ..... 11:14-25
  - K. Rise of Jeroboam..... 11:26-40
  - L. Death of Solomon ..... 11:41-43
  
- III. The Kingdom Splits ..... 12:1-33
  - A. Rehoboam made king ..... 12:1-15
  - B. Revolt and Jeroboam made king of north (Israel) ..... 12:16-24
  - C. Jeroboam plunges Israel into idolatry ..... 12:25-33
  
- IV. Reigns of Israelite and Judean Kings ..... 13:1-16:34
  - A. Jeroboam of Israel..... 13:1-14:20
  - B. Rehoboam of Judah..... 14:21-31
  - C. Abijam of Judah..... 15:1-8
  - D. Asa of Judah..... 15:9-24
  - E. Nadab of Israel..... 15:25-31
  - F. Baasha of Israel..... 15:32-16:7
  - G. Elah, Zimri of Israel..... 16:8-20
  - H. Omri of Israel..... 16:21-27
  - I. Ahab of Israel..... 16:28-34
  
- V. Elijah’s Career ..... 17:1-19:21

A.	Drought and miracles associated therewith .....	17:1-18:19
B.	Prophets of Baal killed.....	18:20-40
C.	Rain .....	18:41-46
D.	Elijah flees to Mount Horeb and meets God there.....	19:1-18
E.	Elisha called to prophetic ministry .....	19:19-21
VI.	Ahab's Reign .....	20:1-22:40
A.	War between Ahab and Ben-hadad of Syria.....	20:1-43
B.	Ahab and the vineyard of Naboth .....	21:1-29
C.	Death of Ahab in battle against Syria .....	22:1-40
VII.	Further Kings .....	22:41-22:53
D.	Jehosphaphat of Judah .....	22:41-50
E.	Ahaziah of Israel .....	22:51-53

## Notes

1. The dedication of the temple in 1 Kings 8 is very significant in Israel's history.
2. Notice the downfall of Solomon (1 Kings 11) as it relates to Deut. 17:16-17.
3. Notice the seeds of destruction planted in the Northern Kingdom: 1 Kings 12:25-33.
4. Note the account of Elijah's prophetic "battle" with the prophets of Baal in 1 Kings 18.

## Outline of 2 Kings

The book of 2 Kings continues the history of Israel by recounting further information about Elijah and Elisha, various kings in the northern and southern kingdoms, and the falls of both kingdoms to foreign powers.

The outline below is organized topically instead of strictly by chapter and verse.

### Outline

- I. Further Kings of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms..... 1:1-10:36
  - A. Death of Ahaziah of Israel ..... 1:1-18
  - B. Elijah and Elisha ..... 2:1-25
  - C. Jehoram of Israel ..... 3:1-27
  - D. Miracles and other works of Elisha ..... 4:1-8:15
  - E. Jehoram of Judah ..... 8:16-24
  - F. Ahaziah of Judah..... 8:25-29
  - G. Jehu of Israel defeats Joram, Ahaziah, Jezebel ..... 9:1-9:37
  - H. Jehu of Israel defeats sons of Ahab, prophets of Baal ..... 10:1-31
  - I. Israel oppressed by Hazael of Syria..... 10:32-36
  
- II. Southern Kings..... 11:1-12:21; 14:1-22; 15:1-7; 15:32-16:20
  - A. Athaliah and Joash ..... 11:1-21
  - B. Joash of Judah and his reforms ..... 12:1-21
  - C. Amaziah of Judah ..... 14:1-22
  - D. Azariah/Uzziah of Judah..... 15:1-7
  - E. Jotham of Judah ..... 15:32-38
  - F. Ahaz of Judah ..... 16:1-20
  
- III. Northern Kings of Jehu's Dynasty..... 13:1-13:25; 14:23-29; 15:8-12
  - A. Jehoahaz of Israel..... 13:1-9
  - B. Jehoash/Joash of Israel; Elisha's death ..... 13:10-13:25
  - C. Jeroboam II of Israel ..... 14:23-29
  - D. Zechariah of Israel ..... 15:8-12
  
- IV. Decline and Fall of the Northern Kingdom ..... 15:13-31; 17:1-41; 18:9-12
  - A. Shallum of Israel ..... 15:13-16
  - B. Menahem of Israel ..... 15:17-22
  - C. Pekahiah of Israel..... 15:23-26
  - D. Pekah of Israel..... 15:27-31
  - E. Hoshea of Israel and Fall of Israel (722 B.C.) ..... 17:1-6; 18:9-12
  - F. Commentary on Fall of Israel ..... 17:7-23
  - G. Influx of people to replace deported Israelites..... 17:24-41
  
- V. Hezekiah of Judah and His Sons to Josiah of Judah..... 18:1-8; 18:13-21:26
  - A. Early reign..... 18:1-8
  - B. Defeat of Sennacherib; Isaiah's prophecy ..... 18:13-19:37
  - C. Hezekiah's illness ..... 20:1-21

D.	Manasseh of Judah.....	21:1-18
E.	Amon of Judah.....	21:19-26
VI.	Josiah of Judah and His Sons to the Fall of Jerusalem .....	22:1-25:30
A.	Early reign.....	22:1-7
B.	Discovery of the Law; Reforms.....	22:8-23:30
C.	Jehoahaz of Judah .....	23:31-33
D.	Eliakim/Jehoiakim installed as king in south.....	23:34-24:6
E.	Jehoiachin of Judah.....	24:7-12
F.	Initial incursion of Nebuchadnezzar (605, 592) .....	24:13-16
G.	Zedekiah/Mattaniah of Judah.....	24:17-20
H.	Fall of Jerusalem .....	25:1-21
I.	Gedaliah the governor; Jehoiachin honored in Babylon.....	25:22-30

## Notes

- The kings of the northern kingdom (Israel) can be divided into four dynasties and one last one that covers the period of the northern kingdom's fall:
  - First dynasty: Jeroboam I, Nadab
  - Second dynasty: Baasha, Elah, Zimri, Tibni
  - Third dynasty: Omri, Ahab, Ahaziah, Joram
  - Fourth dynasty: Jehu, Jehoahaz, Jehoash, Jeroboam II, Zechariah
  - Kings of the fall of Israel: Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, Hoseah
- Why did the north have these four dynasties and the south did not have any?
- From Shallum to the end of the northern kingdom, there is only one family connection between kings (Pekahiah is the son of Menahem but the others are "random").
- Key verses: note 17:7-23; 24:20
- The latter years of Judah are punctuated by two good kings: Hezekiah and Josiah. Each were followed by two or three evil sons/grandsons.
- Notice the grace of God in 2 Kings 13:23.
- Notice 2 Kings 19:35-36. Who killed the Assyrians? Who is that?
- 2 Kings 23:10 recounts the transformation of Topheth in the valley of Hinnom into a garbage dump, later in history to be used as an illustration of the continual burning of Hell (Mark 9:47-48).

## Outline of 1 Chronicles

The book of 1 Chronicles rehearses the history of Israel under David. 2 Chronicles picks up the history at Solomon and continues through the fall of Jerusalem. Therefore, these two books cover events mostly covered in 1 & 2 Samuel and 1 & 2 Kings. However, these books seem to have more detailed accounts of the earlier events in some cases. Thus, they have an important place in the canon. Their genealogical data is also very important for the Jew particularly and is, as all other Biblical material, inspired of God.

### Outline

- I. The Genealogies from Adam to David ..... 1:1-9:44
  - A. Early genealogies ..... 1:1-1:54
  - B. Genealogies of the 12 Tribes ..... 2:1-9:44
  
- II. The Death of Saul and His Sons ..... 10:1-14
  
- III. David's Reign ..... 11:1-29:30
  - A. David's consolidation of the kingdom; his army ..... 11:1-12:40
  - B. The Ark of the Covenant.....13:1-14, 15:1-16:43
  - C. Various military events during David's reign.....14:1-17, 18:1-20:8
  - D. The Davidic Covenant ..... 17:1-27
  - E. David's sin of taking the census ..... 21:1-30
  - F. Preparations for the temple ..... 22:1-19
  - G. Divisions of the Levites ..... 23:2-26:32
  - H. David's Army..... 27:1-34
  - I. David's last words to the people.....28:1-29:19, 29:26-30
  - J. Solomon installed as king ..... 23:1, 29:20-25

### Notes

1. Compare 1 Chronicles 21:1 with 2 Sam 24:1. How do you resolve any tension here?
2. Notice David's last words. Last words are often are very significant.

## Outline of 2 Chronicles

The book of 2 Chronicles rehearses the history of Israel under Solomon and continues through the fall of Jerusalem.

### Outline

I. Reign of Solomon .....	1:1-9:31
A. Wisdom of Solomon .....	1:1-17
B. Building and furnishing of the Temple.....	2:1-5:14
C. Solomon's prayer and the glory of the Lord.....	6:1-7:22
D. Other activities of Solomon .....	8:1-9:31
II. The Division of the Kingdom – Rehoboam and Jeroboam.....	10:1-12:16
III. The History of Judah.....	13:1-36:21
A. Abijah of Judah .....	13:1-22
B. Asa of Judah.....	14:1-16:14
C. Jehoshaphat of Judah .....	17:1-20:37
D. Jehoram of Judah .....	21:1-20
E. Ahaziah of Judah.....	22:1-9
F. Athaliah usurps the throne .....	22:10-12
G. Joash of Judah .....	23:1-24:27
H. Amaziah of Judah .....	25:1-28
I. Uzziah of Judah.....	26:1-23
J. Jotham of Judah .....	27:1-9
K. Ahaz of Judah .....	28:1-27
L. Hezekiah of Judah.....	29:1-32:33
M. Manasseh of Judah.....	33:1-20
N. Amon of Judah.....	33:21-25
O. Josiah of Judah.....	34:1-35:27
P. Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, an Zedekiah of Judah .....	36:1-16
Q. The end of the southern kingdom .....	36:17-21
IV. The Decree of Cyrus, 538 B.C.....	36:22-23

### Notes

1. Notice chapter 1 and how Solomon starts; compare this with the end of his reign.



## Outline of Ezra

In chronological terms, Ezra comes after 2 Chronicles 36:22-23; in fact, the decree of Cyrus first seen there is repeated in Ezra 1:1-4 as well as 6:3-5 (looking back from a later point in history). This is an important decree in Israelite history, as it marked the fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy (25:11-13, 29:10). Ezra records the initial return of Zerubbabel and Ezra, the rebuilding of the temple, and Ezra's reforms. Ezra is a contemporary of the prophets Haggai and Zechariah.

Note the following historical information:

Three Phases of Exile	Three Phases of Return
605 B.C. (Daniel)	538 B.C. (Zerubbabel)
597 B.C. (Jehoiachin)	458 B.C. (Ezra)
586 B.C. (Zedekiah)	444 B.C. (Nehemiah)

In the first phase of the return, the focus is on the rebuilding of the temple; in the second phase, the moral rebuilding of the people; and in the third phase, the rebuilding of the city itself.

## Outline

- I. First phase of return: Zerubbabel leads in rebuilding of temple ..... 1:1-6:22
  - A. Decree of Cyrus and return of temple items ..... 1:1-11
  - B. Roll of returnees..... 2:1-70
  - C. Worship re-instituted in Jerusalem ..... 3:1-6
  - D. First phase of temple re-construction, political obstacles .... 3:8-4:24
  - E. Second phase of temple re-construction, more politics ..... 5:1-6:15\*
  - F. Passover re-instituted in Jerusalem..... 6:16-22
  
- II. Second phase of return: Ezra's reforms ..... 7:1-10:44
  - A. Summary of Ezra's role in Jerusalem ..... 7:1-10
  - B. Artaxerxes commission of Ezra and Ezra's thanksgiving .... 7:11-28
  - C. Roll of returnees..... 8:1-14
  - D. Preparation of Levites returning with Ezra..... 8:15-30
  - E. Arrival of Ezra in Jerusalem ..... 8:31-36
  - F. Ezra's confession ..... 9:1-15
  - G. Illegal marriages dissolved ..... 10:1-44

## Notes

1. Significant verses: 7:10, 9:13.
2. At chapters 5 and 6, see Haggai and Zechariah, as indicated in 5:1.
3. Notice that the political opposition of chapters 4-6 was the start of over 80 years of conflict. Nehemiah suffered similar trouble (chapters 4, 6).
4. Why is Ezra 7:1-5 important? Hint: Correlate this passage with 2:59-63.
5. What kind of government was established under Ezra in 8:25-26?
6. Ezra 9 is one of the Bible's great prayers. See Nehemiah 9, Daniel 9, 1 Kings 8, John 17.
7. How do you explain the divorce issue present in chapter 10?

## Outline of Nehemiah

The book of Nehemiah continues the account of the return of the exiles by covering the third phase of the return. Following is the timeline of events that help to locate Nehemiah in the larger historical context.

Three Phases of Exile	Three Phases of Return
605 B.C. (Daniel)	538 B.C. (Zerubbabel)
597 B.C. (Jehoiachin)	458 B.C. (Ezra)
586 B.C. (Zedekiah)	444 B.C. (Nehemiah)

In the third phase of the return the rebuilding of the city and the especially the wall is the focus. Nehemiah enacted reforms in the political and economic system as well. The book begins in late 445 B.C. in chapter 1. The decree “to restore and to build Jerusalem” (Daniel 9:25) was given shortly later in 444 B.C. You recall that this date is important in Biblical prophecy because 483 prophetic (360-day) years from this decree, Daniel prophesies that “Messiah the Prince” will appear and will be killed (9:25-26).

### Outline

- I. Third phase of return: Nehemiah leads in rebuilding the wall..... 1:1-7:73
  - A. Nehemiah’s prayer to re-gather Israel around Jerusalem ..... 1:1-11
  - B. Artaxerxes I grants favor to Nehemiah to rebuild the city..... 2:1-10
  - C. Nehemiah convinces the people to build, and opposition..... 2:11-20
  - D. The list of people who built ..... 3:1-32
  - E. Opposition and Nehemiah’s response..... 4:1-23
  - F. Economic reforms (in Nehemiah’s first term as governor) .... 5:1-19
  - G. More opposition and completion of the wall ..... 6:1-19
  - H. The people who returned in the first phase (Zerubbabel) ..... 7:1-73
  
- II. Further Reforms involving Ezra and Nehemiah ..... 8:1-13:31
  - A. Reading of the Law; re-institution of feast of booths ..... 8:1-18
  - B. Prayer of Levites (review of God’s goodness, confession) .... 9:1-38
  - C. Resolve to keep the law and provide for Levites ..... 10:1-39
  - D. Census of people living throughout Israel ..... 11:1-36
  - E. Records of priests and Levites who came in the first wave.. 12:1-26
  - F. Walls Dedicated; temple functions re-instituted..... 12:27-47
  - G. More reforms of Nehemiah in his second term ..... 13:1-31

### Notes

1. The first 12 chapters cover about one year, 445 B.C. Then there appears to be a long gap, perhaps 20 years, between chapters 12 and 13. Nehemiah served his first term as governor from 445-433 B.C.) and his second term from 424 to possibly as late as 410 B.C. (5:14, 13:6).
2. A set of historical documents called the Elephantine Papyri, discovered in 1903, mention Sanballat and Johanan and also show that Nehemiah was not the governor of Judah after

408 B.C. There are *many* other confirmations of Biblical information—no need to be ashamed of the Bible!

3. Note *how* Nehemiah prays in 1:8-9. What do you notice? Notice also that he is not focused on the land or the city, but on their relationship with God. Yes, the sad state of Jerusalem is the occasion for his prayer, but he hardly mentions that in his prayer.
4. Notice Nehemiah's response (4:4) to the opposition in 4:1-3.
5. Chapters 4-6 are interesting because they give a view of external as well as internal conflict. Nehemiah faced both. See also 6:17-19 for more complicated problems.
6. In chapter 6, the opposition makes up the claim that Jerusalem will revolt against the king (6:5-7). Does this sound familiar? (Ezra 4:12-13).
7. Notice the relationship of Nehemiah 7:64-65 and 2:62-63 (and surrounding verses).
8. Significant verses: 8:8.
9. Notice the emphasis on *understanding* in chapter 8: verses 2, 3, 7, 8, 12. Upon their understanding, they wept (8:9). They also had joy.
10. Nehemiah demonstrates an understanding of history and a desire not to repeat it (13:23-27).
11. There are a number of occurrences of the phrase "Remember...O my God..." Why are these here? See 5:19, 13:14, 22, 29, 31.
12. Also notice some other little prayers Nehemiah offers: 2:4, 6:9.

## Outline of Esther

The name of God is not mentioned in Esther, but the believing reader can easily discern the providential hand of God in this portion of the history of Israel. The king reigning at the time is Ahasuerus, also known as Xerxes (reigned about 486-465 B.C.)

### Outline

- I. Esther Ascends to the Office of Queen..... 1:1-2:23
  - A. Feast for the nobility in the kingdom..... 1:1-9
  - B. Queen Vashti disobeys her husband..... 1:10-12
  - C. Ahasuerus considers and decides what to do about this..... 1:13-22
  - D. Esther selected as new queen ..... 2:1-18
  - E. Mordecai saves the life of the king..... 2:19-23
  
- II. Haman’s Plot to Kill the Jews..... 3:1-5:14
  - A. Mordecai refuses to worship Haman ..... 3:1-4
  - B. Haman enraged and wants to kill *all* the Jews ..... 3:5-6
  - C. Haman lays the plan and requests of the king ..... 3:7-11
  - D. The plan is revealed to the kingdom ..... 3:12-15
  - E. Mordecai enlists Esther’s help..... 4:1-17
  - F. Esther arranges to speak to the king ..... 5:1-8
  - G. Haman thinks well of himself ..... 5:9-14
  
- III. Mordecai Honored by the King and Mordecai Hanged..... 6:1-7:10
  - A. The King finds no reward had been given to Mordecai..... 6:1-3
  - B. Haman ironically is commanded to honor Mordecai ..... 6:4-11
  - C. The downfall of Haman is foreshadowed ..... 6:12-14
  - D. At the second banquet, Esther reveals the problem ..... 7:1-6
  - E. The King orders Haman hanged..... 7:7-10
  
- IV. Esther Helps the Jews Survive the Attempted Genocide..... 8:1-10:3
  - A. Esther and Mordecai provide help for the Jewish people ..... 8:1-17
  - B. The Jews overpower those who hated them..... 9:1-17
  - C. The Feast of Purim instituted to celebrate their survival ..... 9:18-32
  - D. Closing statement about Mordecai and King Ahasuerus ..... 10:1-3

### Notes

1. Surprisingly, by 5:12 it appears that Haman still does not know the lineage of Esther. It seems strange that he would not know her connection to Mordecai.
2. It is interesting to read that many people in the kingdom “became Jews,” that is, proselytes to the Jewish faith.

## Outline of Job

The book of Job is about God's sovereign administration of the world and how it relates to the problem of evil. If you are looking for a full solution to the problem apart from God, it is not to be found. Ultimately the resolution of the problem is found in trusting in God's wise administration of the affairs of the world.

### Outline

- I. Introduction..... 1:1-2:13
  - A. Job's spiritual and material prosperity..... 1:1-5
  - B. The first affliction..... 1:6-22
  - C. The second affliction..... 2:1-10
  - D. The three friends Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar..... 2:11-13
  
- II. Round 1: Speeches by Job and the Friends..... 3:1-11:20
  - A. Job Speech #1 – Curses the day of his birth ..... 3:1-26
  - B. Eliphaz Speech #1 – Trials due to sin; corrective aspect of affliction4:1-5:27
  - C. Job Speech #2 – Weight of the trials; rebuke of the friends ..... 6:1-7:21
  - D. Bildad Speech #1 – Justice of God; Job not pure and upright ..... 8:1-22
  - E. Job Speech #3 – Recognition of God and innocent plea ..... 9:1-10:22
  - F. Zophar Speech #1 – Rebukes Job for his many words..... 11:1-20
  
- III. Round 2: Speeches by Job and the Friends..... 12:1-20:29
  - A. Job Speech #4 – Rebukes the friends; God's sovereignty ..... 12:1-14:22
    - Job claims to know like his friends..... 12:1-6
    - Brevity of Life..... 14:1-22
  - B. Eliphaz Speech #2 – Another rebuke of Job ..... 15:1-35
  - C. Job Speech #5 – God has dealt treacherously with me ..... 16:1-17:16
  - D. Bildad Speech #2 – The end of the wicked..... 18:1-21
  - E. Job Speech #6 – Job calls for sympathy from the friends ..... 19:1-29
  - F. Zophar Speech #2 – The wicked do not prosper ..... 20:1-29
  
- IV. Round 3: Speeches by Job and the Friends..... 21:1-31:40
  - A. Job Speech #7 – The wicked do prosper; Zophar wrong ..... 21:1-34
  - B. Eliphaz Speech #3 – Zophar speculates on Job's sin, calls to repent22:1-30
  - C. Job Speech #8 – Would plead with God; wicked live on; will end23:1-24:25
  - D. Bildad Speech #3 – How can a man be justified with God?..... 25:1-6
  - E. Job Speech #9..... 26:1-31:40
    - 1. Rebuke of Bildad ..... 26:1-4
    - 2. God's great works..... 26:5-14
    - 3. Job maintains his innocence..... 27:1-7
    - 4. The ultimate judgment of the wicked ..... 27:8-23
    - 5. Vast earth known by God but the living do not know all of it28:1-11
    - 6. Wisdom: cannot find in the earth; priceless..... 28:12-27
    - 7. Wisdom defined: Fear of the Lord and depart from evil ..... 28:28
    - 8. Job desires his former prosperity and position ..... 29:1-25

9. Job laments his current condition, lower than the lowest man	30:1-31
10. Job will take punishment if he has done wrong.....	31:1-40
V. Elihu and His Speech .....	32:1-37:24
A. Introduction to the young man Elihu .....	32:6-10
B. Rebuke of the three friends for not properly answering Job .....	32:11-22
C. Accuses Job of falsehood in his claim to innocence .....	33:1-13
D. Confession of sin will result in God's blessing .....	33:14-33
E. God does justly judge men based on their works .....	34:1-33
F. Elihu claims Job has rebelled against God .....	34:34-37
G. God is not hurt by sin but will not hear men in sin .....	35:1-16
H. God responds to men based on their sin .....	36:1-23
I. Consider God's wonderful works in the weather.....	36:24-37:24.....
VI. God's Speech.....	38:1-41:34
A. Accusation: words without knowledge .....	38:1-3
B. Proof: unanswerable questions about creation .....	38:4-39:30
C. God asks Job if he intends to instruct or reprove God .....	40:1-2
D. Job replies and admits his own wickedness .....	40:3-5
E. Proof: unattainable power over creation.....	40:6-41:34
VII. Job's Reply .....	42:1-6
A. Admission that God is omnipotent and omniscient .....	42:2
B. Admission of speaking of things he does not understand .....	42:3-4
C. Job's repentance .....	42:5-6
VIII. God's Sentence on the three friends and their obedience.....	42:7-9
IX. Job's Restoration to Material Prosperity .....	42:10-17

## Notes

1. When quoting from the book of Job, it is important to know where the quote comes from. Citations of Job's friends should receive special careful consideration because their theology is often incorrect. Even Job's statements are sometimes laced with frustration at the circumstances.
2. The basic problem with the friends' theology is that it is a "mechanical retribution" theology. They believe that if you do well, you will not suffer difficulties. This falls short of a sensible explanation when compared with the reality of life.

## Outline of Psalms

The Psalms are difficult to outline because many stand on their own as independent pieces of literature. The outline below shows the traditional outline of the sections of the book, including select groups of Psalms. The selections are grouped under similar headings according to the superscriptions and content of the Psalm.

### Outline

I. Book 1.....	Psalms 1-41
A. Psalms of David .....	3-9, 11-32, 34-41
II. Book 2.....	Psalms 42-72
A. Psalms of the Sons of Korah .....	42, 44-49
B. Psalm of Asaph.....	50
C. Psalms of David .....	51-65, 68-70
D. Psalm of Solomon .....	72
III. Book 3.....	Psalms 73-89
A. Psalms of Asaph.....	73-83
B. Psalms of the Sons of Korah .....	84-85, 87-88
C. Psalm of David.....	86
D. Psalm of Ethan the Ezrahite.....	89
IV. Book 4.....	Psalms 90-106
A. Psalm of Moses .....	90
B. Psalm for the Sabbath.....	92
C. Psalm of Thanksgiving.....	100
D. Psalms of David .....	101, 103
E. A Prayer of the Afflicted Person .....	102
F. Psalms of Praise .....	104-106
V. Book 5.....	Psalms 107-150
A. Psalms of David .....	108-110, 138-145
B. The Hallel Psalms.....	113-118
C. Psalms of Ascents.....	120-34
D. Of the Ascents several are Psalms of David .....	122, 124, 131, 133
E. Of the Ascents, One by Solomon .....	127
F. Psalms of Praise .....	146-150

### Notes

1. Note the doxologies at the end of each section:
  - a. 41:13: “Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting! Amen and Amen!”
  - b. 72:19: “And blessed be His glorious name forever! And let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen.”
  - c. 89:52: “Blessed be the LORD forevermore! Amen and Amen.”

- d. 106:48: "Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, "Amen!"
  - e. The entirety of Psalm 150 is a praise, but the last verse will suffice. 150:6: Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!
2. Every Christian should be very familiar with several of the Psalms. These include Psalm 1, 2, 19, 23, 32, 51, 100, 119.
  3. The Psalms can be categorized by their content: lamentation, praise, song of trust, thanksgiving, wisdom, and kingdom. They can also be classified as to whether the content is mostly individual, or national in scope.



## Outline of Proverbs

As with the Psalms, the book of Proverbs resists being outlined in a tidy fashion. But there is some structure to the book, as shown below.

### Outline

I. Prologue .....	1:1-9:18
A. Introduction to the proverbs of Solomon .....	1:1-7
B. Parental wisdom for young people (“my son” in ch. 1-7).....	1:8-9:18
1. Friends.....	1:8-19
2. Wisdom personified.....	1:20-33
3. Benefits of wisdom: protection from sin .....	2:1-7:27
4. Wisdom personified again .....	8:1-9:6
5. Way of wisdom versus the way of folly .....	9:7-18
II. Proverbs of Solomon, Part 1 .....	10:1-22:16
III. The Words of the Wise .....	22:17-24:34
IV. Proverbs of Solomon, Part 2 (Hezekiah copied).....	25:1-29:27
V. Wise Words of Agur, son of Jakeh .....	30:1-33
VI. Words of King Lemuel Taught to Him by His Mother .....	31:1-31
A. Wisdom for a king.....	31:1-9
B. The virtuous wife .....	31:10-31

### Notes

1. It may be helpful to consider the theology of the Proverbs under the following headings: God, man, sin, and man’s relationship to God. For example, ask yourself as you read, “What does this Proverb teach me about God? About myself? About my relationship to God? What does it teach me about my sin and tendency to walk apart from God?”
2. The major sections of the book are fairly easily discernible from the phrases “the words of...” (22:17, 30:1, 31:1) and “the proverbs of Solomon” (1:1 and 10:1).
3. Chapters 2 through 7 and 9 devote much space to the dangers of adultery and prostitution. Sexual sin is a pernicious trap that many people foolishly fall into.
4. Throughout chapters 1-7 the phrase “my son” indicates that a parent is speaking wisdom to his child.
5. Seven things are called out as specifically odious to the Lord (6:16-19).

## Outline of Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes is Solomon's expression of how he "came to himself" after initially being given great wisdom, but then wasting it in what was essentially prodigal living. He had fallen into temptation with many women, including their pagan gods.

### Outline

- I. Introduction..... 1:1-11
  - A. Author ..... 1:1
  - B. Ephemeral nature of the cycle of life ..... 1:2-11
  
- II. Solomon's Search for Meaning in Life..... 1:12-6:9
  - A. The search introduced ..... 1:12-18
  - B. Various kinds of pleasure ..... 2:1-11
  - C. Wisdom, madness, and folly ..... 2:12-17
  - D. Labor and enjoyment ..... 2:18-3:15
    - 1. The difficulty of understanding labor and its outcome ..... 2:18-26
    - 2. Appropriateness of all kinds of events for their own time.... 3:1-9
    - 3. In light of finiteness, man should enjoy God's gifts..... 3:10-15
  - F. Justice and judgment..... 3:16-4:3
  - G. Labor in relation to other people..... 4:4-12
  - H. Value of wisdom ..... 4:13-16
  - I. Fearing God and honoring vows ..... 5:1-7
  - J. Oppression, injustice, and avarice ..... 5:8-10
  - K. Problem with riches: they disappear ..... 5:11-6:9
  
- III. Wisdom Gained from Solomon's Search ..... 6:10-11:6
  - A. Many things increase vanity ..... 6:10-12
  - B. Various proverbs about wisdom: it is "better" ..... 7:1-12
  - C. God's work is inscrutable..... 7:13-14
  - D. Righteousness and wickedness ..... 7:15-25
  - E. Women and folly ..... 7:25-29
  - F. Wisdom obeys authority ..... 8:1-9
  - G. Wisdom in light of life's brevity and "unfairness" ..... 8:10-8:17
  - H. The same outcome happens to righteous and wicked ..... 9:1-4
  - I. Life is better than death and should be used properly ..... 9:5-10
  - J. Time and chance happen to all ..... 9:11-12
  - K. Wisdom better than folly, but no one remembers the wise..... 9:13-18
  - L. Wisdom sometimes brings success, but it is limited ..... 10:1-20
  - M. Wisdom promotes diligence in light of unknown outcomes..... 11:1-6
  
- IV. Closing: Enjoy life while the opportunity is there ..... 11:7-12:14
  - A. Closing poem about old age and death (corr. to I. B. above).... 11:7-12:8
  - B. Final conclusions: fear God and keep His commands ..... 12:9-14

## Notes

1. Many sections of the book end with a statement about vanity and grasping for the wind.
2. An important but often overlooked theme in the book is the enjoyment of God's gifts. While those gifts are available, it is appropriate to enjoy them judiciously—not sinfully. The need for this is highlighted by the transience of them and the fact that life does not always turn out like we think it "should." God's administration of things is not mechanical, and it is "uneven" from our earth-bound perspective. So while righteous enjoyment is possible, it should be done.

## Outline of Song of Solomon

This book written by King Solomon extols the enjoyment (and some difficulties) of love between a man and a woman. It expresses the beauty of God’s design for human love. It has a solid place in the canon of Scripture. In terms of literary structure, the book appears to be structured like a play with different people reading different parts and scene switches from time to time. Also, it appears to follow the chronological order of the relationship from early to later stages. The wife is the Shulamite, and the husband is Solomon.

### Outline

I. Introduction.....	1:1
II. During Courtship .....	1:2-3:5
A. Future bride and groom express admiration for one another .....	1:2-2:7
B. Groom proposes—the time for love is fulfilled .....	2:8-13
C. Call to remove relational hindrances (little foxes) .....	2:14-17
D. Dream: the bride is totally preoccupied with her fiancé .....	3:1-4
E. Wait for love until the proper time .....	3:5
III. Wedding and Consummation.....	3:6-5:1
A. Solomon comes for his bride on the wedding day .....	3:6-11
B. Marriage consummated.....	4:1-5:1
IV. After the Honeymoon .....	5:2-8:14
A. A disagreement .....	5:2-6:3
1. The Shulamite misses Solomon.....	5:2-8
2. Her friends help her remember his excellence.....	5:9
3. She recalls that he is the best .....	5:10-16
4. Her friends ask where he might have gone.....	6:1
5. She explains that he has returned to her.....	6:2-3
B. Restoration .....	6:4-8:7
1. Solomon expresses love and praise for his bride .....	6:4-10
2. Response of the Shulamite.....	6:11-13
3. Solomon praises the physical beauty of his wife .....	7:1-9a
4. The Shulamite invites Solomon to be with her.....	7:9b-13
5. Intimacy has to wait until private time .....	8:1-4
6. Solomon returns for his bride again.....	8:5
7. The Shulamite expresses unending love for her husband.....	8:6-7
V. Conclusion .....	8:8-14
A. Her brothers protected her purity while she was young.....	8:8-9
B. The Shulamite kept herself pure.....	8:10-11
C. Reaffirmation of marriage.....	8:12-14

## Notes

1. The book is not an allegory of Christ's love for the church. That interpretation is offered to "tone down" or explain the erotic language of the book.
2. The references to "spouse" and the explicit sexual language in chapter 4 shows that the couple is now married.
3. The repeated phrase "do not stir up nor awaken love until it pleases" reflects the Biblical understanding of sexual purity. Before marriage, this means abstinence. After marriage, this means keeping lovemaking private.

## Outline of Isaiah

The book of Isaiah is the first of the so-called “major prophets” because of its size. The others are Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Daniel. There are 12 “minor prophets” after Daniel in the OT.

Unfortunately, one of the first issues that comes up in studies of Isaiah has to do with authorship. Did one real prophet Isaiah write the book, or were there two or even three authors whose works were combined at a later date? One can read pages and pages on this subject but it boils down to this simple question: do you believe in the inspiration and inerrancy of the Scripture? If so, then this data will suffice to show you the unity of the book of Isaiah:

NT Reference	Isaiah Quotation	NT Reference	Isaiah Quotation
Matt. 1:22	Isa. 7:14	John 1:23	Isa. 40:3
Matt. 3:3	Isa. 40:3	John 12:38	Isa. 53:1
Matt. 4:14	Isa. 9:1-2	John 12:39	Isa. 6:9-10
Matt. 8:17	Isa. 53:4	Acts 8:28, 30, 32-33	Isa. 53:7-8
Matt. 12:17	Isa. 42:1-4	Acts 28:25	Isa. 6:9-10
Matt 13:14	Isa. 6:9-10	Rom. 9:27, 29	Isa. 10:22-23, 28:22, 1:9
Matt. 15:7	Isa. 29:13	Rom. 10:16	Isa. 53:1
Mark 7:6	Isa. 29:13	Rom. 10:20	Isa. 65:1
Luke 3:4	Isa. 40:3-5	Rom. 15:12	Isa. 11:1, 10
Luke 4:17	Isa. 48:8-9	Matt. 21:4	Isa. 62:11

Since the NT quotes from Isaiah chapters 1, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 28, 29, 40, 42, 48, 53, 62, and 65 and ascribes all of these to Isaiah, we can be certain that Isaiah wrote the book! Of course, even easier would be to just look in the book of Isaiah itself, where his name is used 16 times.

It is often noted that there is a major division in the book at chapters 39/40, and since the whole book has 66 chapters, 39 before the division and 27 after, the book mirrors the structure of the whole Bible which has 66 books, 39 in OT, 27 in NT. The first section seems to focus on judgment and the second on redemption, deliverance, and blessing. The following from R. Bruce Compton (Course Outline, 106 Bible Exposition, Isaiah, Detroit Baptist Theological Seminary, Spring 1998) gives a high-level overview of the book, which we will develop at further length as we proceed in the study of Isaiah’s prophecy.

### Condensed Outline

- I. Book of Judgment ..... 1–39
  - A. Prophecies concerning Judah and Jerusalem ..... 1–12
  - B. Oracles of judgment against the nations ..... 13–23
  - C. Prophecies of world-wide judgment and deliverance ..... 24–27
  - D. Oracles of woe against Samaria, Jerusalem, and Assyria ..... 28–33
  - E. Prophecies of world-wide judgment and deliverance ..... 34–35
  - F. Historical interlude and transition ..... 36–39
  
- II. Book of Comfort ..... 40–66
  - A. Prophecies of redemption and restoration ..... 40–48

- B. Prophecies involving God’s Servant the Messiah ..... 49–55
- C. Prophecies of condemnation and consummation..... 56–66

One concept that is important to understand in Isaiah is that of the ‘oracle’ or ‘burden.’ It signifies a ‘pronouncement’ and is prophetic of events that will certainly occur. It is used 11 times in chapters 13-23 (and 3 other times in the book) where there are a total of 14 prophecies against the peoples of various geographical regions. The same word is used for a load that may be borne on an ox or other beast of burden. You can see how a prophetic oracle would be a heavy load, not only for the prophet, but for the recipients to bear. For instance, “the burden of Babylon” in 13:1 can be translated “the pronouncement or prophecy concerning or against Babylon.” Of similar import is the word ‘woe’ which occurs 21 times in the book. We ought to be able to see from this that the Bible is not always full of good news!

### Historical Background

#### Assyrian Kings

1. Tiglath Pileser III, 745 – 727 B.C.

Conqueror of ANE; forced tribute on Israel under Menahem (2 Kings 15:19ff). Israel and Syria united against Tiglath to throw off his rule; Ahaz of Judah would not go along with their union so they turned against him (2 Kings 15:37; 16:5; Isa. 7:1). Ahaz did not trust the Lord at this juncture but turned to Assyria for help (2 Kings 16:7-9).

2. Shalmaneser V, 727 – 722 B.C., son of Tiglath.

At the succession of Shalmaneser, many states that were subjugated under his father revolted; he therefore had to re-establish dominance over them. By 722 B.C., he had defeated Samaria, deported its population, and re-populated it with loyal subjects. Thus the northern kingdom was destroyed (2 Kings 17:1-23).

3. Sargon II, 722 – 705 B.C.

Again revolts had to be put down; Egypt was conquered. Hezekiah declared independence from Assyria but later was forced to change his mind.

4. Sennacherib – 705 – 681 B.C.

Babylon, Judah, and Egypt revolted. Hezekiah joined with Egypt (Isa. 30-31). Jerusalem was miraculously spared seeming certain defeat (Isa. 37:36).

5. Esar-haddon – 681– 668 B.C.

### Detailed Outline: The Book of Judgment, Chapters 1–39

- I. Prophecies concerning Judah and Jerusalem ..... 1–12
  - A. Court case against Judah and Jerusalem ..... 1:1-31
  - B. Millennial blessing..... 2:1-4
  - C. Judgment against Judah ..... 2:5-4:1
  - D. Millennial blessing..... 4:2-4:6
  - E. Judgment against Judah ..... 5:1-30
  - F. Isaiah’s commissioning (740 B.C.)..... 6:1-13
  - G. Near-term deliverance from Syria and Israel..... 7:1-8:22

H.	Prophecy of the Messiah’s first coming.....	9:1-7
I.	Judgment against Israel and Assyria.....	9:8-10:34
J.	Prophecy of the Messiah’s second coming.....	11:1-12:6
II.	Oracles of judgment against the nations .....	13–23
A.	Against Babylon.....	13:1-14:27
B.	Against Philistia .....	14:28-32
C.	Against Moab.....	15:1-16:14
D.	Against Damascus (Syria) and Israel.....	17:1-14
E.	Against Ethiopia.....	18:1-7
F.	Against Egypt.....	19:1-25
G.	Against Egypt and Ethiopia .....	20:1-6
H.	Against Babylon.....	21:1-10
I.	Against Edom.....	21:11-12
K.	Against Arabia .....	21:13-17
L.	Against Judah (Jerusalem) .....	22:1-14
M.	Against Shebna .....	22:15-25
N.	Against Tyre.....	23:1-18
III.	Prophecies of world-wide judgment and deliverance.....	24–27

This section reflects judgments on the whole world in the tribulation and the blessing in the Millennial Kingdom. See Revelation 6-19, 20-22 for greater detail. The judgment on the world topically belongs with the previous section but since it is chronologically farther in the future, it fits well with this section.

A.	Judgment against the World.....	24:1-23
B.	Praise to God for His deliverance .....	25:1-26:19
C.	Judgment against the world .....	26:20-27:13
IV.	Oracles of woe against Samaria, Jerusalem, and Assyria.....	28–33
A.	Against Samaria (Ephraim).....	28:1-13
B.	Against Judah (Jerusalem) .....	28:14-32:20
C.	Against Assyria.....	33:1-24
V.	Prophecies of world-wide judgment and deliverance.....	34–35
A.	Judgment against the world .....	34:1-17
B.	Millennial blessing.....	35:1-10
VI.	Historical interlude and transition.....	36–39
A.	The invasion and defeat of Assyria (Sennacherib) .....	36:1-37:38
B.	The sickness and recovery of Hezekiah.....	38:1-39:8

### Detailed Outline: The Book of Comfort, Chapters 40–66

I.	Prophecies of redemption and restoration.....	40–48
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A.	Comfort from the Almighty God .....	40:1-41:29
B.	The Servant of the LORD .....	42:1-25
C.	The superiority of God, Israel’s redeemer, to Idols .....	43:1-44:28
D.	Deliverance from captivity .....	45:1-25
E.	Judgment against Babylon .....	46:1-47:15
F.	The stubbornness of Israel and their deliverance.....	48:1-22
II.	Prophecies involving God’s Servant the Messiah .....	49–55
A.	The Servant and Restoration.....	49:1-26
B.	The suffering Servant.....	50:1-11
C.	Deliverance to Zion.....	51:1-52:12
D.	The suffering and glory of the servant .....	52:13-53:12
E.	Restoration of Israel.....	54:1-17
F.	Call to repentance and blessing.....	55:1-13
III.	Prophecies of condemnation and consummation.....	56–66
A.	Promises to the just.....	56:1-8
B.	Condemnation of the wicked .....	56:9-57:21
C.	Proper observance of the law .....	58:1-14
D.	Iniquities of Israel .....	59:1-21
E.	Glory of Zion .....	60:1-62:12
F.	Judgment of God.....	63:1-6
G.	Prayer for Deliverance .....	63:7-64:12
H.	Condemnation and Deliverance.....	65:1-66:24

## Notes

1. The Sennacherib Prism is a 15-inch tall, six-sided baked clay prism from ancient Assyria. It contains the story of the invasion of the kingdom of Judah by Sennacherib in 701 B.C. The prism was found at Nineveh.
2. King Sennacherib of Assyria is mentioned in 2 Kings 18-19. Isaiah prophesied that God would protect Jerusalem against attack by Sennacherib (Is. 36-37, 2 Chron. 32). While the prism does say that the Assyrians trapped Hezekiah in Jerusalem “like a bird in a cage,” like the biblical record, it says nothing of them conquering the city.
3. The Bible says that God spared Jerusalem. The prism, together with the Lachish reliefs and excavations, adds detail to the biblical account. King Hezekiah prayed to the Lord. Isaiah brought him God's message. That night the Lord smote 185,000 Assyrians, and Sennacherib went back to Nineveh and later was killed by his sons (Isaiah 37:35-38).
4. See <http://www.myfortress.org/archaeology.html>. Also, Gleason L. Archer, *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*, Revised and Expanded, Chicago: Moody Press, 1994.

## Outline of Jeremiah

Jeremiah ministered from approximately 627 B.C. until 570 or even a bit later. He was in Judah and Jerusalem until the third phase of the exile (see Ezekiel’s background information for more on this). He then was forced to go to Egypt with those left in the land after the destruction of Jerusalem. This makes him a prophet through all phases of the exile and into the 70 years of captivity. He was contemporary with Daniel (605–536 B.C.) and Ezekiel (593–572 B.C.). He ministered about 80 or more years after Micah, who is mentioned in Jer. 26:18. Like Ezekiel, he was a priest (1:1).

The kings mentioned in the opening verses are:

<b>King</b>	<b>Dates of reign</b>
Josiah son of Amon	640–609 (Jeremiah starts in year 13, about 627)
Jehoiakim son of Josiah	609–597
Zedekiah son of Josiah	597–586 (until 11 <sup>th</sup> year, exile in 5 <sup>th</sup> month)

## Outline

- I. Preparation of Jeremiah ..... 1:1-19
  - A. Calling of Jeremiah ..... 1:1-10
  - B. Vision of almond tree and boiling pot..... 1:11-16
  - C. God will deliver Jeremiah from trials ..... 1:17-19
  
- II. Judgment Against Judah ..... 2:1-45:5
  - A. God charges Israel with forsaking Him ..... 2:1-37
  - B. God calls Israel to return, like inviting a wayward wife home ..... 3:1-4:2
  - C. God calls Judah to repent under threat of soon judgment ..... 4:3-5:31
  - D. Benjamin told to flee impending disaster of Jerusalem ..... 6:1-30
  - E. Temple message: amend your ways, and you will stay here..... 7:1-8:3
  - F. False prophecy and its devastating results..... 8:4-9:26
  - G. God contrasted with futile idols ..... 10:1-25
  - H. God pronounces an irreversible curse on Judah..... 11:1-17
  - I. Plot against Jeremiah’s life..... 11:18-23
  - J. Jeremiah’s question about the wicked and God’s answer ..... 12:1-17
  - K. Symbol of linen sash: Judah morally filthy and useless ..... 13:1-11
  - L. Symbol of wine bottles: Judah will stumble in judgment ..... 13:12-14
  - M. Direct pronouncement of judgment for pride and idolatry..... 13:15-27
  - N. Drought, famine, sword, sent by God ..... 14:1-18
  - O. The people pray for rescue ..... 14:19-22
  - P. God refuses to change His mind about judgment..... 15:1-21
  - Q. Death and destruction, but no mourning..... 16:1-9
  - R. People inquire as to why punishment, God answers ..... 16:10-13
  - S. Future restoration of Israel and Gentile repentance..... 16:14-21
  - T. Judah trusted idols and man; should have trusted the Lord..... 17:1-13
  - U. Jeremiah prays to be delivered..... 17:14-18
  - V. Call to honor the Sabbath day ..... 17:19-27

W. The sovereign potter warns the clay.....	18:1-17
X. Persecution of Jeremiah and his prayer.....	18:18-23
Y. Sign of the broken pottery vessel: total destruction.....	19:1-15
Z. Jeremiah persecuted by Pashhur and others; depression.....	20:1-18
AA. God’s message to King Zedekiah through Jeremiah.....	21:1-14
AB. God’s message to four kings of Judah.....	22:1-30
AC. God promises restoration under Messiah’s rule.....	23:1-8
AD. Condemnation of lying prophets.....	23:9-40
AE. Lesson of the two baskets of figs, two groups of Jews.....	24:1-10
AF. Destruction and 70-year exile for lack of repentance.....	25:1-14
AG. Judgment on many nations (Israel, Egypt... ).....	25:15-38
AH. Jeremiah’s call for repentance met with arrest.....	26:1-24
AI. Yokes/bonds symbolize Nebuchadnezzar’s international rule ...	27:1-22
AJ. False prophecy of Hananiah; God judges him.....	28:1-17
AK. Jeremiah writes letter to captives in Babylon.....	29:1-32
AL. God will save Israel, after she passes through Tribulation.....	30:1-24
AM. God will regather and rebuild Israel; the New Covenant.....	31:1-40
AN. God promises property ownership will resume.....	32:1-44
AO. God will restore the desolate city under Messianic rule.....	33:1-26
AP. God warns Zedekiah of coming defeat.....	34:1-7
AQ. God judges those who did not keep their word about slaves ....	34:8-22
AR. Rechabites a model of obedience.....	35:1-19
AS. Jeremiah writes a fearful book of God’s prophecies, twice.....	36:1-32
AT. Zedekiah false hopes the Chaldeans will depart.....	37:1-10
AU. Jeremiah put in prison, falsely accused, released.....	37:11-38:13
AV. Zedekiah solicits Jeremiah’s advice.....	38:14-28
AW. Jerusalem captured; Zedekiah punished, Jeremiah rescued.....	39:1-18
AX. Jeremiah released; some Jews return to Gedaliah.....	40:1-16
AY. Murder of Gedaliah and reaction.....	41:1-18
AZ. Johanan et al. inquire of Jeremiah but disobey.....	42:1-43:13
BA. Judgment coming on those in Egypt; Baruch spared.....	44:1-45:5
III. Judgment Against the Nations.....	46:1-51:64
A. Against Egypt.....	46:1-28
B. Against Philistia.....	47:1-7
C. Against Moab, but a promise of future restoration.....	48:1-49
D. Against Ammon, but a promise of future restoration.....	49:1-6
E. Against Edom (like Obadiah).....	49:7-22
F. Against Damascus.....	49:23-27
G. Against Kedar and Hazor.....	49:28-33
H. Against Elam, but a promise of restoration.....	49:34-39
I. Against Babylon, with promise of restoration to Israel.....	50:1-51:64
IV. Summary of the Fall of Jerusalem, 586 B.C.....	52:1-34

## Time Markers

Passage	Text	Calendar Date
1:2	13 <sup>th</sup> year of Josiah, son of Amon	627 B.C.
1:3	11 <sup>th</sup> year of Zedekiah, son of Josiah	587/6 B.C.
24:1	After Nebuchadnezzar carried away Jeconiah, son of Jehoiakim	Sometime after 597 B.C.
25:1	Fourth year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah	About 605/4 B.C. Note this is chronologically <i>before</i> 24:1. This was when Nebuchadnezzar took the throne of Babylon.
25:3	For 23 years, from the 13 <sup>th</sup> year of Josiah son of Amon	627 B.C. to 604 B.C., though Jeremiah's ministry was much longer than this.
25:11, 29:10	Seventy years of captivity are promised by God	605–535 B.C., although there were three deportations and at least three large groups who returned at various times, making the length of captivity somewhat variable.
26:1, 27:1	Beginning of Jehoiakim's reign	609 B.C.
28:1	Fourth year of Zedekiah's reign	593 B.C.
29:2	Shortly after Jeconiah, et al. were taken to Babylon	596? B.C.
32:1	10 <sup>th</sup> year of Zedekiah, 18 <sup>th</sup> year of Nebuchadnezzar	587 B.C., counting from 597 B.C. and 605 B.C. respectively.
36:1	4 <sup>th</sup> year of Jehoiakim son of Josiah	605 B.C., around the time of the first deportation to Babylon
39:1, 52:4	9 <sup>th</sup> year of Zedekiah king of Judah, 10 <sup>th</sup> month, 10 <sup>th</sup> day of the month	Siege of Jerusalem begins
39:2, 52:6	11 <sup>th</sup> year of Zedekiah, 4 <sup>th</sup> month, 9 <sup>th</sup> day	Siege successful, city overrun; famine had been so bad that there was no food left
41:1	7 <sup>th</sup> month	About 3 months after the Babylonian takeover
45:1, 46:2	4 <sup>th</sup> year of Johoiakim	Early on in Baruch's scribal career, about 605 B.C.
49:34	Beginning of the reign of Zedekiah	597 B.C. at 21 years of age, reigned 11 years
51:59	4 <sup>th</sup> year of Zedekiah's reign (?)	593 B.C. but it wasn't until the 11 <sup>th</sup> year of Zedekiah that Jerusalem was taken.
52:12	11 <sup>th</sup> year of Zedekiah, 5 <sup>th</sup> month, 10 <sup>th</sup> day of the month	19 <sup>th</sup> year of King Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuzaradan burned the temple

		and the king's house, walls of Jerusalem broken down.
52:31	37 <sup>th</sup> year of Jehoiachin's captivity, 12 <sup>th</sup> month, 25 <sup>th</sup> day of the month	561 B.C., Evil-Merodach King of Babylon released Jehoiachin from prison.

## Notes

1. The marriage/divorce imagery in chapter 3 is instructive. What would be abominable to men—for a man to marry a former wife who had gone to be the wife of another man—was something God was willing to do for Israel and Judah because of His grace.
2. A careful distinction must be made between Israel and Judah in places like 3:6-11. Israel refers to the northern kingdom, and Judah/Jerusalem to the southern kingdom. Other times, it seems that Israel refers to the entire nation (5:15?).
3. The ark of the covenant is mentioned in 3:16, but only to say that it will not be remembered anymore. Present-day fascination with this historical artifact is inappropriate because the one way of salvation has been manifested in Jesus Christ. He is the revelation of God to the world; God does not dwell now above the Ark in a confined temple. He dwells in His people by His Spirit.
4. Israel admits she has sinned, and that salvation cannot come from idols (3:22-25).
5. In 7:15, God reminds Judah and Benjamin that he had cast out the northern tribes (under the name Ephraim). This reference was meant to shake them up and get them to act decisively about their sin.
6. Far more than sacrifices and offerings, God desires obedience (7:21-24).
7. At 7:30-31, God condemns the people for their sin of child sacrifice. Making their children “pass through the fire” or “burning them in the fire” is a reference to offering children to the God Molech as burnt offerings. Such an abominable practice never even entered the mind of God as something valid to do.
8. Child sacrifice was an awful practice of the pagan nations. Israel took up the practice as well (19:5).
9. 23:20 has a phrase “in the latter days you will understand it perfectly.” This is not a promise to all people, much less that in heaven we will know all things. It is given to the Jewish people that they will understand “it”—God’s judgment against them—clearly.
10. The burden of chapter 23 is to show that God despises those who prophesy falsely in His name, because it misleads His people.
11. Jeremiah had ministered for 23 years, yet the people did not repent.
12. The fulfillment of the international judgments of chapter 25 must be in the far future, although God has certainly judged many of the listed nations already one or more times.
13. Note that the promise of 29:11 is given within a certain context. It is not valid to lift it out and apply it to people in every age. Sometimes this is even done without regard to the modern recipient’s standing before God. This context talks about repenting and turning back to the Lord.
14. Notice the proverb in Jer. 31:29-30 and a parallel in Ezekiel 18.
15. The promise of resumed property ownership is surprising to Jeremiah because of the imminent takeover of the land by Babylon. The situation seems hopeless, but God assures him that there is hope for the nation in the future.

16. The text mentions in chapters 32:2-3, 33:1, and 39:15 that Jeremiah is imprisoned by his own people. They did not like what he was saying.
17. God is very clear as to the reasons for His judgment. Ezekiel 44 is a good example.
18. Ezekiel 45 goes back in time a few years to a point when Jeremiah's secretary Baruch had high hopes for his life, but God told him to tamp those expectations down and be thankful to have his life as a prize for himself wherever he went.

## Outline of Lamentations

Lamentations is a poem of sorts. It is without question a “lament” like many of the psalms. But it is highly structured, as the following outline will demonstrate. The first two chapters and the last two chapters are acrostic poems of 22 verses each, one verse for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet. Chapter 3 is an acrostic poem with three verses per letter, thus comprising 66 verses total.

### Outline

- I. Lament 1 ..... 1:1-22
  - A. Judah and Jerusalem are desolate due to captivity..... 1:1-11
  - B. Jerusalem feels sorrow and affliction..... 1:12-22
  
- II. Lament 2 ..... 2:1-22
  - A. The LORD poured out judgment on Jerusalem ..... 2:1-10
  - B. The perspective of the people..... 2:11-14
  - C. Perspective of the enemies ..... 2:15-17
  - D. The grief of Jerusalem..... 2:18-19
  - E. Prayer of Jeremiah..... 2:20-22
  
- III. Lament 3 ..... 3:1-66
  - A. Jeremiah laments: God has afflicted *me* ..... 3:1-20
  - B. Jeremiah has hope in the LORD ..... 3:21-33
  - C. Jeremiah admonishes the people about what to do ..... 3:34-42
  - D. Jeremiah laments: God has afflicted the *nation* ..... 3:43-51
  - E. Jeremiah recalls how God saved him from his enemies..... 3:52-66
  
- IV. Lament 4 ..... 4:1-22
  - A. The punishment of Zion..... 4:1-20
  - B. The punishment of Edom ..... 4:21-22
  
- V. Lament 5 ..... 5:1-22
  - A. Remember, O Lord, what has happened to us ..... 5:1-18
  - B. Turn us back to You, O Lord ..... 5:19-22

### Notes

1. Jeremiah writes from his perspective in 1:1-11, and then switches to writing as if he is personified Jerusalem in 1:12-22. You can notice this in the change from words like *Jerusalem* and *her* in the first section to the word *my* in the second section. It appears that *my* does not refer to Jeremiah himself.
2. The description of children dying of starvation and cannibalism is very difficult to read (2:11, 19-20).
3. The verses in chapter 3 are noticeably shorter than the verses in chapters 1, 2, and 4. Chapter 5 has shorter verses as well.

## Outline of Ezekiel

Ezekiel started ministering in the prophetic office at the age of 30 (1:1). This was 5 years after the captivity of Jehoiachin (1:2). The dates of his prophecies are given throughout the book. The last one is dated at the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the captivity, 20 years after the start of Ezekiel’s ministry (40:1). To locate these events on the calendar, we need to remember these key dates in Israel’s history:

Three Phases of Exile	Three Phases of Return
605 B.C. (Daniel)	538 B.C. (Zerubbabel)
597 B.C. (Jehoiachin)	458 B.C. (Ezra)
586 B.C. (Zedekiah)	444 B.C. (Nehemiah)

The 597 date for Jehoiachin’s captivity is when Ezekiel was taken as well. So the prophetic ministry of Ezekiel started around 593 B.C. and ended around 572 B.C. Daniel served in Babylon from 605 B.C. until 539 B.C., so Ezekiel and Daniel were contemporaries. Ezekiel mentions Daniel (14:14, 20, 28:3). Jeremiah ministered from 627 B.C. to approximately 570 B.C., so was another contemporary.

Ezekiel was a priest (1:3), the son of Buzi. The priestly office was normally open occupied by those who were between 30 and 50 years old (Numbers 4:3, and throughout the chapter). This 20-year span matches the dates in the prophecies of the book.

## Outline

- I. Prophecies of the Destruction of Jerusalem (near fulfillment) ..... 1:1-24:27
  - A. Introduction to Ezekiel..... 1:1-3
  - B. A vision of God ..... 1:4-28
  - C. Ezekiel commissioned as a prophet to rebellious Israel..... 2:1-3:15
  - D. Ezekiel commissioned as a watchman to rebellious Israel ..... 3:16-27
  - E. Ezekiel portrays the siege against Jerusalem (587 B.C.)..... 4:1-17
    - 1. Ezekiel constructs a model of the city ..... 4:1-3
    - 2. Ezekiel lays on his sides to picture punishment..... 4:4-8
    - 3. Ezekiel makes special bread for the siege..... 4:9-17
  - F. Ezekiel portrays the destruction of Jerusalem ..... 5:1-17
    - 1. Figure: His hair represents the population ..... 5:1-4
    - 2. Literal: Jerusalem to be judged for rebellion ..... 5:5-17
  - G. Ezekiel prophesies of disease, famine, sword for idolatry..... 6:1-14
  - H. Ezekiel prophesies of awful judgment is coming soon..... 7:1-27
  - I. Vision of the complete idolatry of Israel ..... 8:1-18
  - J. Vision of judgment on the idolaters ..... 9:1-11
  - K. Vision of God moving away from the Temple ..... 10:1-22
  - L. Vision of judgment, protection, and God’s further departure ..... 11:1-25
  - M. Ezekiel enacts captivity to get Israel’s attention ..... 12:1-20
  - N. The prophecy of judgment will be fulfilled soon..... 12:21-28
  - O. God rebukes false prophets who promise false peace..... 13:1-23
  - P. Judgment against heart-idolaters and unfaithfulness ..... 14:1-23



Q. Israel likened to useless vine-wood .....	15:1-8
R. Israel likened to beautiful woman turned harlot, and judged .....	16:1-59
S. God will remember His covenant .....	16:60-63
T. Parable of eagles and vine (Babylon, Egypt, and Israel).....	17:1-24
U. Rebuttal of the “sour grapes” proverb, call to repent.....	18:1-32
V. Lament using the figure of lions and vines .....	19:1-14
W. Rebuke of idolatrous Israel (past and present) .....	20:1-32
X. God will rule over Israel (far future fulfillment).....	20:33-44
Y. Imminent judgment against the south of Israel .....	20:45-49
Z. The sword of the Lord against Israel .....	21:1-32
AA. The sins of Israel and her furnace-like judgment.....	22:1-31
AB. Sinful Israel/Judah pictured as two harlot sisters and judged ...	23:1-49
AC. The siege of Jerusalem begins .....	24:1-14
AD. Ezekiel’s wife’s death and his behavior an object lesson .....	24:15-27
II. Prophecies Against the Nations (near fulfillment).....	25:1-32:32
A. Ammon.....	25:1-7
B. Moab.....	25:8-11
C. Edom .....	25:12-14
D. Philistia.....	25:15-17
E. Tyre to be destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, and a lament .....	26:1-28:19
F. Sidon .....	28:20-24
G. Israel will dwell securely in the midst of the nations.....	28:25-26
H. Egypt .....	29:1-21
I. Egypt and surrounding nations to be judged, and a lament.....	30:1-32:32
III. Call to Repentance (near fulfillment) .....	33:1-34:10
A. Ezekiel a watchman for Israel; call for repentance .....	33:1-20
B. Report that Jerusalem was taken; reason: violations of the Law	33:21-29
C. The people listen to Ezekiel but do not obey .....	33:30-33
D. God holds Israel’s leaders responsible as shepherds .....	34:1-10
IV. Restoration of Israel (almost all far future).....	34:10-48:35
A. God will be shepherd of His people.....	34:11-31
B. Judgment against Mount Seir (Edom; near fulfillment).....	35:1-15
C. Blessings for Israel .....	36:1-37:28
1. Mountains of Israel will bring forth blessing.....	36:1-15
2. Israel will be cleansed for the sake of God’s name .....	36:16-38
3. Israelites will be physically resurrected.....	37:1-14
4. Israel will be re-unified into a single nation .....	37:15-28
D. Judgment against Gog from Magog .....	38:1-39:29
E. The millennial temple, worship, and land .....	40:1-48:35
1. Ezekiel introduced to the vision.....	40:1-5
2. Layout and dimensions of the temple (by an angel) ....	40:6-42:20
3. Appearance of God’s glory and reason for vision .....	43:1-12
4. God describes the altar and its consecration .....	43:13-27

5. The closed gate and admission to the temple..... 44:1-9
6. Regulations for the priests ..... 44:10-31
7. Division of the land for the holy section..... 45:1-8
8. Honest weights and measures (relevant for offerings) ..... 45:9-12
9. Offerings to and from the Prince ..... 45:13-17
10. Brief instruction concerning the feasts ..... 45:18-25
11. Details of worship of prince and people ..... 46:1-15
12. Inheritance law of the prince..... 46:16-18
13. The kitchens for offerings..... 46:19-24
14. Healing river and trees ..... 47:1-12
15. Borders and tribal division of the land..... 47:13-48:29
16. City gates and name ..... 48:30-35

### Time Markers

Passage	Text	Calendar Date
1:1-2	Year 5 of captivity, month 4, day 5	593 B.C. counted from 597 B.C. when Judah was deported under Jehoiachin
8:1	Year 6, month 6, day 5	592 B.C., 14 months later. Note that this allows enough time for the 390+40 days enacting the punishment of Israel.
20:1	Year 7, month 5, day 10	591 B.C., 11 months later than 8:1
24:1	Year 9, month 10, day 10	January 588 B.C. Babylon began the siege of Jerusalem.
26:1	Year 11, month ?, day 1	586 B.C. On the 10 <sup>th</sup> day of month 5 of year 11, Jerusalem was taken.
29:1	Year 10, month ?, day 12	587 B.C., out of chronological order with the above, some months before the defeat of Jerusalem.
29:17	Year 27, month 1, day 1	570/71 B.C. The prophecy moves much later in time, near the end of the recorded ministry of Ezekiel.
30:20	Year 11, month 1, day 7	587/6 B.C.
31:1	Year 11, month 3, day 1	About 2 months after 30:20.
32:1	Year 12, month 12, day 1	About 585/4 B.C., almost two years after 30:20.
32:17	Year 12, month ?, day 15	This must be the same month as 32:1.
33:21	Year 12, month 10, day 5	585 B.C., and some sources are specific with “January 8” as the exact date. Report of Jerusalem’s capture comes to Ezekiel by the hand of an escapee. This was six months after the actual event on July 18, 586 B.C.

40:1	Year 25, month 1, day 1	573-72 B.C., as the text says, exactly 14 years after the 586 B.C. date of the capture of Jerusalem.
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## Notes

1. See 2 Kings 24 and 2 Chronicles 36:9-10 for more details on the captivity of Jehoiachin which occurs at the beginning of Ezekiel's ministry.
2. Note the formulaic phrase "the word of the LORD" which occurs 60 times in the book. 46 of those occurrences are longer: "the word of the LORD came to me." These are helpful markers for outlining the book.
3. Correlate the vision in chapter 1 with that in Revelation 4-5, and other places where Christophanies are described.
4. The scroll of chapter 2 and 3 is a symbolic representation of the message of woe that Ezekiel would bring to the nation. Like the book that the Apostle John ate (Revelation 10), it was sweet to the taste (3:3).
5. Note the remnant set aside from the initial calamities of chapter 5 (5:3).
6. Regarding the disposal of silver and gold in 7:19, see Prov. 11:4.
7. The idol worship in chapter 8 is strongly correlated to Romans 1:21-23.
8. Chapter 8, particularly at verse 6, shows the movement of God's glory away from the temple in Jerusalem. The people had forsaken God, so He was leaving them for a while.
9. Chapter 9 shows a devastating judgment is coming. However, God remembers His people with mercy in that they are marked (symbolically) on their foreheads. They are the ones who are upset over the abominable behavior of the nation and its leaders.
10. The six "men" of chapter 9 are angels.
11. 11:3 makes more sense if you realize that Jeremiah was prophesying simultaneously that the people should submit to Babylonian rule so they could live in peace. Their leadership refused to consider that option.
12. The prince in 12:10-13 refers to King Zedekiah, who was ruling over Jerusalem at the time, and was stubborn leader of the stubborn nation. His eyes were put out before he arrived in Babylon, so he never saw it (2 Kings 25:1-7).
13. The goal of judgment, 12:15 records, is that the people of Israel will recognize that God is the LORD. This is repeated several times throughout the book. God also desires that Israel, at least a remnant of the nation, will admit their wrongdoings (12:16).
14. The wall built with bad mortar (13:10ff) represents the construction of the false prophets in their prophecies. They promise peace—a wall of security—but cannot deliver because their construction is shoddy. It is not based on true revelation from God (13:7). False prophecies have two effects: 1) strengthen the hands of the wicked and 2) grieve the righteous (13:22).
15. Even in the midst of judgment against idolatry and unfaithfulness, God will protect a remnant who will be a great encouragement to the prophet because of their righteous ways (14:22-23).
16. The picture of sexual sins in chapter 16 conveys the spiritual adultery that Israel did in departing from God and going after the pagan gods of other nations.
17. Notice the Messianic prophecy of 17:22-24.
18. Notice the question of "fairness" in 18:25-29.

19. Ezekiel 27 is very reminiscent of Revelation 18. Both speak much of trade that had occurred with the respective doomed cities.
20. Ezekiel 34:11ff reminds the reader of Psalm 23.
21. The identification of Gog, the land of Magog, and the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal are difficult.
22. With the precise date giving in 40:1, it is evident that the captives have a somber remembrance every year of the capture of Jerusalem and the destruction of their city and way of life.
23. The temple described in chapters 40 and following is clearly different than Solomon's temple, Zerubbabel's temple, the present heavenly temple (since this is in Jerusalem), and the temple of the eternal state. It is what is called the millennial temple, existing for a period of time between Christ's second coming and the heavenly state. It is a huge edifice.
24. When you read the section on the temple dimensions, you appreciate the proverb "a picture is worth a thousand words." It is hard to envision the temple without a diagram.
25. Why in 43:10 does God say that the details of the temple should cause the people to be ashamed? It is because the vision shows what Israel *could* have had if they were obedient to God. Since they weren't, they were instead (for that time) suffering God's consuming anger. The vision also serves to show what the nation *will* have when Messiah returns and establishes His kingdom. The shame of looking at what they presently experienced and what they could be experiencing by God's grace should produce deep repentance.
26. The identification of the prince around Ezekiel 45-46 is somewhat difficult. However, the fact that he is assumed to have sons rules out that the prince is Messiah.
27. Very few places in the OT does one read of parables (Psalm 78:2, Prov. 1:6, Hosea 12:10, but not in all translations). The idea occurs in several places in Ezekiel (17:2—eagle and vine, 20:49—a forest fire, and 24:3—the cooking pot). The parable form is often used in Matthew, Mark, and Luke.
28. The Sabbath is said to be a sign of the Mosaic covenant (20:12, 20).
29. It is not immediately obvious what God means when he speaks of Ezekiel being mute, because it seems that he communicates prophetic messages throughout the book until chapter 33 when he becomes "unmuted." The relevant verses are Ezekiel 3:26-27, 24:27, and 33:22. The muteness imposed upon Ezekiel seems to relate to his ability to rebuke the people for their disobedience. He will only be able to speak the prophecies God gives him, and no more. Whether they listen or refuse to listen is in their hands.
30. The structure of the book is a good proof that all of chapters 36-48 are references to a far future fulfillment in which God blesses the nation in a way that reverses the judgments of chapters 1-24.
31. Many readers and interpreters question the meaning of the last 9 chapters of the book, with its huge temple, animal sacrifice, and other details. These concern the millennial kingdom and its worship in Jerusalem. The vision will be fulfilled literally at that time. It is designed to encourage the captive Israelites during Ezekiel's day that God is not done with the nation and will yet fulfill the covenants with them despite their sinfulness.

## Outline of Daniel

The book of Daniel is not a book of the historical section of the canon: it is better categorized with the prophets. However, in chronological terms, it falls between 2 Chronicles 36:5 and 36:22 and (for the most part) before Ezra and Nehemiah. It records some historical details of the period of captivity of the southern kingdom and offers a number of prophecies and interpretations of those prophecies that concern the Gentile nations as well as the nation of Israel.

### Outline

- I. Daniel's rise to fame in Babylon ..... 1:1-21
- II. Prophecies concerning the Gentiles ..... 2:1-7:28
  - A. The dream of the statue and its interpretation..... 2:1-49
  - B. The three friends and the fiery furnace ..... 3:1-30
  - C. The dream of the tree, its interpretation and fulfillment..... 4:1-37
  - D. The end of Babylonian rule and start of Medo-Persian ..... 5:1-31
  - E. Daniel and the lion's den ..... 6:1-28
  - F. Daniel's vision of the four beasts and its interpretation ..... 7:1-28
- III. Prophecies concerning Israel ..... 8:1-12:13
  - A. The vision of the ram and male goat and its interpretation..... 8:1-27
  - B. Daniel's prayer and the prophecy of the 70 weeks ..... 9:1-27
  - C. The vision by the Tigris River and Israel's persecution .. 10:1-12:13

### Notes

1. Daniel's prophecies are perhaps the most detailed in the Bible. The prophecy of chapter 11 in particular has already been fulfilled in all of its many details. The prophecy of 9:24-27 has been, so far, fulfilled in a remarkable way.
2. The fulfillment of Daniel 9:24-27 commenced in 444 B.C. according to Neh. 2:1-8.
3. Daniel was written between 605 and 539 B.C. and its prophecies cover from 444 B.C. to the end of human history.
4. The visions of Daniel 2 and 7 are parallel, that is, they have the same basic interpretation. The main movers and shakers in world history, according to these visions, were Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. Rome will come back in revived form during the tribulation.
5. Whitcomb helpfully gives the theme of the book of Daniel as "God's Rule" – over the Gentile nations and over Israel. This picks up the idea of Daniel 4:34-35, where God "does according to his will...among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand..."
6. It is crucial to properly understand the book of Daniel to understand the book of Revelation. For example, 2:44-45 refer to the coming kingdom of Christ. This comes up in Revelation 19-20.
7. There is a wealth of "spiritual examples" in the book of Daniel. Consider: 1:8, 3:17-18, 6:10, Daniel's study of the Scriptures in 9:2 and its result, the prayer of chapter 9.

## Expanded Outline of Daniel

- I. Daniel's rise to fame in Babylon ..... 1:1-21
  - A. First deportation in 605 B.C..... 1:1-2
    - 1. Daniel was part of this first deportation
    - 2. Ezekiel was part of the second deportation (Ezek. 1:1-2)
    - 3. Jeremiah allowed to stay in Israel in the third deportation (Jer. 40:1-6)
  - B. Introduction to Daniel and his diplomatic assignment ..... 1:3-7
  - C. Daniel's commitment to purity ..... 1:8-16
  - D. Daniel's God-given knowledge recognized..... 1:17-21
- II. Prophecies concerning the Gentiles ..... 2:1-7:28
  - A. The dream of the statue and its interpretation..... 2:1-49
    - 1. Nebuchadnezzar demands help with his dream ..... 2:1-13
    - 2. Daniel seeks the help of God ..... 2:14-23
    - 3. Daniel recounts the dream ..... 2:24-35
    - 4. Daniel gives the meaning of the dream..... 2:36-45
    - 5. Daniel and His God recognized ..... 2:46-49
  - B. The three friends and the fiery furnace ..... 3:1-30
    - 1. Nebuchadnezzar makes an image for worshipping ..... 3:1-7
    - 2. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego do not worship ..... 3:8-18
    - 3. The three men thrown into the furnace ..... 3:19-25
    - 4. The three men saved and God recognized ..... 3:26-30
  - C. The dream of the tree, its interpretation and fulfillment ..... 4:1-37
    - 1. Nebuchadnezzar's letter opens with his dream..... 4:1-18
    - 2. Daniel interprets the dream: it refers to the king ..... 4:19-26
    - 3. Daniel gives advice in light of the dream ..... 4:27
    - 4. The dream is fulfilled..... 4:28-33
    - 5. Nebuchadnezzar recognizes God as sovereign ..... 4:34-37
  - D. The end of Babylonian rule and start of Medo-Persian ..... 5:1-31
    - 1. Message to Belshazzar written on the wall..... 5:1-6
    - 2. Belshazzar calls for the message to be interpreted ..... 5:7-12
    - 3. Daniel interprets the dream and criticizes Belshazzar ..... 5:13-29
    - 4. Belshazzar killed and replaced..... 5:30
  - E. Daniel and the lion's den ..... 6:1-28
    - 1. Daniel hated by other leaders who plot against him ..... 6:1-9
    - 2. Daniel is faithful in his prayers ..... 6:10
    - 3. Leaders' plot implemented against Daniel ..... 6:11-17
    - 4. God saves Daniel from the lions..... 6:18-23
    - 5. Leaders punished; God recognized..... 6:24-28

F.	Daniel’s vision of the four beasts and its interpretation .....	7:1-28
	1. The vision described .....	7:1-14
	2. The vision interpreted by an angel.....	7:15-28
III.	Prophecies concerning Israel .....	8:1-12:13
A.	The vision of the ram and male goat and its interpretation.....	8:1-27
	1. The vision described .....	8:1-14
	2. The vision interpreted by Gabriel .....	8:15-27
B.	Daniel’s prayer and the prophecy of the 70 weeks .....	9:1-27
	1. Daniel prays in confession for Israel .....	9:1-19
	2. Gabriel reveals a prophecy about 70 sevens .....	9:20-27
C.	The vision by the Tigris River; Israel’s persecution.....	10:1-12:13
	1. Daniel sees a glorious man in his vision.....	10:1-9
	2. Angels help Daniel understand about Medo-Persia.....	10:10-11:4
	3. Conflict between kings of north and south .....	11:5-45
	4. Israel to be rescued from deep tribulation.....	12:1-3
	5. Daniel told to seal the prophecy and go his way .....	12:4-13

### Preaching Outline of Daniel

The following is from the Friends of Israel 2017 Prophecy Conference which listed all the sessions on the Book of Daniel, subtitle *God's Revelation for Our Times*.

0.	Introduction: God's Revelation for Our Times .....	Jim Showers
1.	A Faithful Resolve .....	1:1-21 Steve Herzig
2.	Nebuchadnezzar's Nightmare .....	2:1-30 Clarence Johnson
3.	Destiny of the Gentiles.....	2:31-49 Mike Stallard
4.	Conviction Without Compromise .....	3:1-30 David Levy
5.	The Vision of God's Sovereign Rule .....	4:1-37 Pat Neff
6.	Babylon on the Brink .....	5:1-30 Chris Katulka
7.	Daniel's Stand for Truth .....	6:1-28 Steve Herzig
8.	The Most High's Everlasting Kingdom .....	7:1-28 Clarence Johnson
9.	Daniel's Disturbing Dream.....	8:1-27 Pat Neff
10.	Daniel's Prayer for His People .....	9:1-19 David Levy
11.	Seventy Weeks for Israel .....	9:20-27 Mike Stallard
12.	Daniel's Encounter with God's Glory.....	10:1-21 Simon Lawry
13.	Past Enemies Become Prophetic Players.....	11:1-45 Chris Katulka
14.	God's Final Message .....	12:1-13 Jim Showers

## Outline of Hosea

The book of Hosea is another one in the 8th century B.C., roughly contemporary with Micah and Isaiah (see the “king lists” in 1:1 of each of these books). Since the Northern Kingdom’s destruction in 722 B.C. is depicted as future, his prophecy was written before then, but certainly after 790, the start of Uzziah’s reign. Probably Hosea wrote between 755 and 710 B.C. or thereabouts. He specifically prophesies against the Northern Kingdom.

### Outline

I. Introduction.....	1:1
II. The Illustration of Hosea’s Marriage.....	1:2-3:5
A. Hosea’s Marriage and Children.....	1:2-1:9
B. Restoration of Israel.....	1:10-2:1
C. Explanation of Israel’s Harlotry and God’s Taking Her Back.....	2:2-2:3
D. Parallel of Unfaithful Gomer and Israel.....	3:1-5
III. Judgment Speeches Against Israel and Calls for Repentance.....	4:1-14:9
A. First Judgment Speech.....	4:1-19
B. Second Judgment Speech.....	5:1-15
C. Call to Repentance.....	6:1-3
D. Third Judgment Speech.....	6:4-8:14
E. Fourth Judgment Speech.....	9:1-11:7
F. Promise of Deliverance.....	11:8-11
G. Fifth Judgment Speech.....	11:12-12:14
H. Sixth Judgment Speech.....	13:1-16
I. Call to Repentance.....	14:1-9

### Notes

1. Gomer and the marriage were literal, not just symbolic. Hosea’s marriage and family were an illustration of the harlotry of Israel and God’s judgment and deliverance.
2. The use of Hosea 1:10 and 2:23 in Rom. 9:25-26 presents a little problem. Some take it that this passage shows that the Church fulfills Hosea and replaces Israel. This is incorrect. Rather Paul is using the passage in a principal fashion. Verse 24 shows that he is talking about not only the Jews, but the Gentiles also. God saves those who are not deserving of it and brings them into a relationship with Himself.
3. Hosea 11:1 is used in Matt. 2:15. Some suggest that Hosea must have written with two meanings to include the prophecy about Christ. The problem with this view is that Hosea is clearly talking about a historical event regarding the nation, not a prophetic event involving Jesus. However, Jesus is a Jew who is God’s Son (as Israel was also, Exodus 4:22-23) and who was in Egypt and left (as Israel did in the OT). Matthew reflects this analogy between the nation and its best Son in his quotation.
4. Paul uses Hosea 13:14 in 1 Cor. 15:55 in his taunt against death, which has lost its power due to the death and resurrection of Christ. In Hosea, these are sandwiched between verses on judgment; but in Paul they are not judgment verses. It is best to



understand that Hosea abruptly switched from a judgment context (v. 13) to a blessing context (v. 14) and then back again (end v. 14).

5. Notice the pattern of judgment speeches and calls to repentance or statements of deliverance.

## Outline of Joel

The book of Joel is addressed to the Southern Kingdom. Joel and Obadiah were roughly contemporaries about the same time as Elijah and Elisha in the 9th century B.C. The name Joel means “Jehovah is God.”

### Outline

- I. Introduction..... 1:1
- II. Recent Covenant Chastisement by God..... 1:2-20
  - A. Locust Plague..... 1:2-14
  - B. Drought ..... 1:15-20
- III. The Northern Army (Future: Day of the Lord)..... 2:1-32
  - A. The Army Described..... 2:1-11
  - B. Judah Called to Repentance ..... 2:12-17
  - C. Deliverance of Judah..... 2:18-32
    - 1. Material blessing..... 2:18-27
    - 2. Spiritual blessing..... 2:28-32
- IV. Judgment in the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Valley of Decision)..... 3:1-21
  - A. Time and Location ..... 3:1-2a
  - B. Reason for the Judgment..... 3:2b-3
  - C. Judgment against Tyre, Sidon, and Philistia..... 3:4-8
  - D. Battle and Destruction of the Armies of the Nations ..... 3:9-14
  - E. Restoration of Judah ..... 3:15-21

### Notes

1. Note the verses that show the prophecy is directed to the southern kingdom: 2:1, 15, 23, 32, 3:1, 6, 8, 16-21.
2. The use of Joel 2:28-32 in Acts 2:15-21 requires some explanation. Was Joel completely fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost, or is something a little more subtle going on with Peter’s use of the Joel passage? I take it that Peter is saying that the Spirit’s activity and the offer of salvation are similar, by analogy, to that prediction made by Joel in 2:28-32. Note several items in support:
  - a. Joel 2 is in an eschatological context; Acts 2 is not.
  - b. There is no fulfillment formula used in Acts 2 (“this is...”)
  - c. There are not many common elements between the prophecy and the historical event in Acts. Certainly the natural disasters and phenomenon from Joel did not occur in Acts 2. Not all people were given the Spirit, etc.
  - d. Peter does not cite the whole passage.
3. Note that the locusts of chapter 1 are literal; the army of chapter 2 is not of locusts but rather a national army from the north, namely Assyria. Normally (as the next point illustrates) locust plagues come from the south. This army is from the north. Also chapter 2 explicitly says that we are dealing with an army of people (2:2, 5). Finally, the northern army is a common player in Biblical eschatology (see Dan. 11:40).

4. Note: “The last locust plague to hit Israel was in 1959, followed by a smaller incident in 1961. Of course, Israelis also recall the plague of locusts afflicted the Egyptians prior to the Exodus, as commemorated each year in the Passover Seder.” (<http://web.israelinsider.com/Articles/Travel/4339.htm>). Yahoo News had a story of the recent (November 2004) locust plague. These locusts came from Egypt to southern Israel.

## Outline of Amos

The book of Amos was written about 760 B.C. We know this because he prophesied during the reigns of Jeroboam II (793-753 B.C.) of Israel and Uzziah (790-740 B.C.) of Judah, and because he mentions an earthquake that archeologists calculate to have occurred about 760 B.C. Like Hosea, he specifically prophesies against the Northern Kingdom. During this time, the nation of Israel (the northern kingdom) was marked by total apostasy, idolatry, immorality, and such like. Amos prophesies against them ahead of their 722 B.C. destruction at the hands of the Assyrians. Amos' name means *burden*. He was from Tekoa, about 10 miles south of Jerusalem.

As many have noted, the first six chapters use the *oracle* or “word-based” prophecy format, whereas chapters seven through nine are conveyed through *visions*.

## Outline

I. Introduction.....	1:1
II. Judgment Prophecies Against Gentiles.....	1:2-2:3
A. Punishment of Damascus (capital of Syria).....	1:2-5
B. Punishment of Gaza (capital of Philistia) .....	1:6-8
C. Punishment of Tyre (capital of Phoenicia) .....	1:9-10
D. Punishment of Edom.....	1:11-12
E. Punishment of Ammon .....	1:13-15
F. Punishment of Moab.....	2:1-3
III. Judgment Prophecies Against Judah and Israel .....	2:4-16
A. Punishment of Judah .....	2:4-5
B. Punishment of Israel .....	2:6-16
IV. Judgment Against Israel.....	3:1-6:14
A. Destruction for idolatry, violence .....	3:1-15
B. Deportation, famine, drought for oppression, idolatry .....	4:1-13
C. Seek God and good, not idols and evil .....	5:1-27
D. Life of ease about to end.....	6:1-14
V. Visions of the Future and Amos' Intercession.....	7:1-9:10
A. Vision of the locusts (the Lord relented) .....	7:1-3
B. Vision of the fire (the Lord relented).....	7:4-6
C. Vision of the plumb line (the Lord did not relent).....	7:7-9
VI. Opposition to Amos and His Message.....	7:10-17
VII. More Visions of the Future .....	8:1-9:10
A. Vision of the fruit basket.....	8:1-14
B. Vision of the altar.....	9:1-10
VIII. Vision of Eschatological Restoration.....	9:11-15

## Notes

1. The three visions early in chapter 7 start out in seemingly favorable fashion—the first disaster is described, then Amos intercedes. God says He will not do it. The second is likewise. By the third vision, the reader is awaiting the third relenting from God, but when verse 9 ends, the reader does not see it. God does not relent.
2. Clearly 9:11-15 are not fulfilled yet and will not be until the millennial kingdom.
3. However, much of Amos is not far fulfillment either. Therefore, we have to determine which judgments and prophecies were to be fulfilled soon after the writing, and which were to be fulfilled in the far future.
4. Making a division at 9:11 seems to be a good starting point. Everything before that is near fulfillment; everything after is far fulfillment.
5. But is the Day of the Lord (DOL) in 5:18-20 a reference to the far future? It does not seem so. Is there more than one DOL then? Or is there one in the far future, with this passage referring to that single DOL in illustration of what will happen in the near future?
6. Note the use of Amos 9:11-12 in Acts 15:16-18. James understands Amos to allow the present age of calling out the Gentiles after which (“after this”) the Lord will re-establish the house (monarchy/rule) of David. It is therefore consistent that since there will be Gentiles “called by My name” that the Gentiles do not need to come into Israel through circumcision. The works of the law are not required for salvation.

## Outline of Obadiah

The book of Obadiah is about judgment upon Edom, which is the nation that came from Esau. Obadiah's name means "servant of the LORD" or "worshipper of the LORD." Some interpreters believe that he is the earliest of the Minor Prophets, having written around 845 B.C. As such, he would have overlapped the ministries of Joel (south) and Elijah and Elisha (north). Others put the date of Obadiah's composition around the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. In this case, he would have overlapped or been near in time to the ministries of Daniel, Ezekiel, and Jeremiah.

The ancient city called Petra was the capital of Edom, previously called Sela. Hidden away for centuries south of the Dead Sea, it was re-discovered in 1812. It has been uninhabited for centuries. Thus we know that God's oracle of doom through Obadiah was fulfilled.

## Outline

I. Introduction.....	1a
II. The Judgment on Edom .....	1b-9
A. Call to the Nations for Battle against Edom .....	1b
B. Abasement of Edom.....	2
C. Pride of Edom and God's Judgment against It .....	3-4
D. Total Destruction .....	5-9
1. Calamity Worse Than a Normal Thief.....	5-6
2. Traitors will Join in the Destruction .....	7
3. Wise and Mighty will be Destroyed with the Rest .....	8-9
III. The Reason for the Judgment .....	10-14
A. Summary of Charges and Judgment against Edom .....	10
B. Edom's Passive Support of Israel's Destruction.....	11-12
1. Standing by doing nothing .....	11
2. Rejoicing at her calamity .....	12
C. Edom's Active Support of Israel's Destruction .....	13-14
1. Looting .....	13
2. Mistreatment and Betrayal of Refugees.....	14
IV. The Day of the Lord.....	15-21
A. A Day of Destruction for Edom and the Nations.....	15-16, 18
B. A Day of Deliverance for Judah .....	17, 19-21

## Notes

1. See Gen. 27:38-40. At the occasion of Jacob's trickery to receive the blessing of the firstborn, Esau requested some kind of blessing from his father, and he did receive something. But notice that twice he is predicted to be the servant of his brother (v. 37, 40). God's line would come through Jacob.
2. See Mal. 1:2-5. Here Esau is said to be "hated" as compared to Jacob who is "loved." Esau's descendants, Edom, were decimated.

3. Rom. 9:10-13. Here the hating and loving is indicated in terms of the doctrine of divine election. God chose Jacob over Esau, both of them still in the womb, neither having done any good or evil. This is used in Romans to demonstrate that the purpose of God according to election will not be frustrated. God has that prerogative.
4. Note that Esau was profane (Heb. 12:16-17); he despised his birthright (Gen. 25:34); and his was not the line that God chose to bless with the Messianic promises.
5. Regarding verse 12, note Proverbs 17:5 about the one who rejoices at calamity.
6. The possessions of verse 17 are enumerated in verse 19-20.
7. Note verses 19-21 which indicate the establishment of the millennial kingdom.
8. The Day of the Lord is an important eschatological concept in the Bible. It includes the 7-year tribulation and 1000-year kingdom. Note Amos 5:18-20 (these verses indicate that the DOL was known before Amos wrote in the 700s B.C., thus the earlier date for Obadiah).
9. Note that looting and betrayal will turn on the heads of the Edomites (5-7, 13-14).
10. Other passages of Scripture speak of Edom: Isa 11:14; 34:5-17; 63:1-6; Jeremiah 9:25-26; 25:17-26; 49:7-22; Lam 4:21-22; Ezekiel 25:12-14; 35:15; Joel 3:19; Amos 1:11-12; 9:11-12.

## Outline of Jonah

The book of Jonah was most probably written sometime between 793 and 752 B.C. during the reign of Jeroboam II, a wicked king of the northern kingdom (2 Kings 14:25). Hosea and Amos would be roughly Jonah's contemporaries. Jonah is sent to the north and west to the people of Nineveh. This is somewhat odd for an Israelite prophet to be sent to another people.

### Outline

- I. Jonah's Flight..... 1:1-1:17
  - A. Command to go to Nineveh ..... 1:1-2
  - B. Jonah's disobedience ..... 1:3
  - C. The storm brings out the truth..... 1:4-10
  - D. The calming of the storm ..... 1:11-16
  - E. Jonah in the huge fish prepared by God..... 1:17
  
- II. Jonah's Prayer in the Fish ..... 2:1-10
  - A. God hears Jonah's prayers and Jonah vows..... 2:1-9
  - B. God directs the fish to vomit Jonah ..... 2:10
  
- III. Jonah's Preaching and Nineveh's Repentance ..... 3:1-10
  - A. Command to go to Nineveh ..... 3:1-2
  - B. Jonah's preaching..... 3:3-4
  - C. The belief and repentance of the Ninevites..... 3:5-9
  - D. The "repentance" of God ..... 3:10
  
- IV. Jonah's Anger
  - A. Jonah's selfish prayer..... 4:1-3
  - B. God's preparation of the gourd as an illustration..... 4:4-6
  - C. The worm and sunlight complete the object lesson ..... 4:7-8
  - D. God's rebuke of Jonah: object lesson explained..... 4:9-11

### Notes

1. The account is historical, not fiction. Why? The Scriptures record it as such. There is no note of parable or allegory here at all. The Lord Jesus testifies to the same in Matthew 12:40. There are other reported cases of such incidents where a man is swallowed by a fish, yet lives, so it is not even unknown outside of the Scriptures. Even if it were, who cares? Is God or man the authority?
2. The right thing to do is to obey God's clearly revealed will. Don't disobey!
3. With respect to 1:7, it is not right *today* to cast lots to determine answers from God, though this has been used at times in the past, and with Divine sanction (see, for instance, the Urim and Thummim in Num. 27:21). See also Acts 1:26 and Judges 6:36-40. In the Judges passage, direct revelation from God was not enough for Gideon, though should have been. What would Gideon have done had the fleece not turned out the way he wanted? Would he have disobeyed God? In Acts 1:26, we see the last use of the lot in seeking direction from the Lord. Once the Holy Spirit was given on the day of Pentecost in His special baptizing and indwelling capacities in



- this age, the Spirit leads believers through other means (see Acts 13:2). Today, our direction comes through the leading of the Spirit as informed by the Word of God.
4. Jonah is quite displeased that the Ninevites are not going to get their “due.” What do you think that he is thinking? Perhaps this: “There is no way that the Ninevites should have a chance. They are far worse than Israel.” Can you conclude anything else? Do you think that he doesn’t understand the care that God has for souls? Do you think he is self-absorbed in the sense that he cared for the gourd (for his own benefit) but not the people of Nineveh? Do you think he would rejoice at the overthrow of Nineveh? What did God say about that kind of attitude in the Edomites (Obadiah 12).
  5. Notice the coupling of faith with repentance in the Ninevites. Notice the complete nature of the repentance—from King on down to the animals.
  6. God’s “repentance” is an anthropomorphic expression for how he deals with men when they change their course of action. There is no uncertainty with God what He would do.
  7. There is a nice note here of the need to put aside racial or ethnic prejudices. Israel was not the only people that God cared about—He demonstrates that He also cares for the Gentiles.
  8. Notice the argument from lesser to greater in the last few verses of the book (gourd to people’s souls).
  9. Did you ever notice that there is no missionary mandate in the OT? Israelites are not sent out in droves to preach to the other nations. The other nations have to come to Israel. The OT system is Israel-centric. In the NT, that is totally changed around in Matt. 28:18-20.

## Outline of Micah

The book of Micah is a comprehensive prophecy covering the northern and southern kingdoms in the second half of the 8th century. From 1:1, it has to be dated between 740 and 686 B.C., the times of the reigns of the three kings listed there. Some of his prophecies predate the fall of the north in 722 B.C., and others predate the siege of Jerusalem during the time of Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:17ff). Micah's name means "who is like the LORD?"

The prophecy can be outline in three major sections. Each begins with a call to "hear" (1:2, 3:1, and 6:1).

### Outline

- I. Introduction..... 1:1
- II. Prophecy to the Nations ..... 1:2-2:13
  - A. Summons to the Nations and Witnesses ..... 1:2
  - B. Announcement of Judgment on Judah and Israel ..... 1:3-5
  - C. Destruction of Samaria ..... 1:6-7
  - D. Micah's Mourning at the Judgment ..... 1:8-16
  - E. Reasons for Judgment ..... 2:1-2
  - F. Judgment from God ..... 2:3-11
  - G. Deliverance of the Remnant..... 2:12-13
- III. Prophecy to the Leaders of the Southern and Northern Kingdoms . 3:1-5:15
  - A. Summons to Leaders of South and North ..... 3:1
  - B. Charges Against Corrupt Leaders and Consequences ..... 3:2-12
  - C. The Kingdom of God and Israel's Regathering..... 4:1-8
  - D. The Babylonian Exile ..... 4:9-10
  - E. Armageddon..... 4:11-5:1
  - F. The Redeemer's Place of Birth and Rule..... 5:2-15
- IV. Prophecy to God's People..... 6:1-7:20
  - A. Summons to God's People and Witnesses..... 6:1-2
  - B. God's Question ..... 6:3-5
  - C. Micah's Questions and Response ..... 6:6-8
  - D. God's Judgment ..... 6:9-16
  - E. Micah Notices the Treachery and Wickedness in the Nation ... 7:1-6
  - F. Micah Waits on the Lord ..... 7:7-13
  - G. Micah Appeals to God for National Deliverance from Sin .. 7:14-20

### Notes

1. Note that the capital of the northern kingdom (Israel) is Samaria. The capital of the southern kingdom (Judah) is Jerusalem.
2. Evidently the people were sick of hearing God's prophets: 2:6.
3. In 3:2-12, the leaders are the rulers, the false prophets, the judges, and the priests.
4. Note these well-known passages: 4:3 (cf. Joel 3:10 and Isaiah 2:4); 5:2, 6:6-8.

5. Note the treachery in 7:1-6: “they all lie in wait for blood;” that they may...do evil with both hands;” “scheme together;” “do not trust in a friend;” and the family treachery in 7:6.
6. Note passages whose fulfillment is far into the future: 2:12-13; 4:1-8 (except 5); 4:11-5:1 (except maybe 5:1); 5:2-15; 7:11-20.

## Outline of Nahum

The book of Nahum is addressed to Nineveh and also to the entire Assyrian empire of which Nineveh was the capital city. Recall that Jonah was another prophet who was told to bring a message to Nineveh. Jonah was written in the early half of the 8th century B.C. (recall that we said this was sometime between 793-752 B.C.). Nahum writes about 100 years later that judgment that is imminent for Nineveh. Apparently their repentance under Jonah's ministry did not last more than a portion of the intervening century.

The date of Nahum can be located between 663 B.C. and 612 B.C. The former date marks the fall of Thebes in Egypt to the Assyrians (3:8) and this is used as an example by Nahum. Further, the fall of Nineveh to the Babylonians occurred in 612. This could put Nahum's writing during the reigns of Manasseh (most likely), Amon, or Josiah. I think the book was written earlier in that time period due to the strength of Assyria, which was in the process of being eclipsed in the 7th century by the Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar, i.e. later in the century we find a weaker and weaker Assyrian power.

Nahum's name means comfort or consolation. The message is of no comfort to Nineveh, obviously, but is of comfort to Judah, whose enemies will be punished thoroughly.

## Outline

- I. Introduction..... 1:1
- II. God the Judge and the Conspiracy Against Him ..... 1:2-15
  - A. His Holy Character ..... 1:2-3a
  - B. His Great Power ..... 1:3b-6
  - C. His Justice ..... 1:7-8
  - D. Judgment against Nineveh ..... 1:9-12a, 14
  - E. Deliverance for Judah ..... 1:12b-13, 15
- III. The Promised Destruction of Nineveh..... 2:1-13
  - A. The Call to be Ready for Judgment ..... 2:1-2
  - B. The Picture of the Battle ..... 2:3-6
  - C. The Captivity and Spoil of Nineveh ..... 2:7-10
  - D. The Figure of the Destruction of the Young Lions..... 2:11-13
- IV. Further Detail of the Destruction of Nineveh ..... 3:1-19
  - A. Reason for Judgment..... 3:1, 4
  - B. Carnage in Nineveh..... 3:2-3
  - C. Humiliation of Nineveh ..... 3:5-7
  - D. Example of Thebes ..... 3:8-11
    - 1. Fortifications will not help..... 3:8-10
    - 2. Comparison of Nineveh to Thebes ..... 3:11
  - E. Mockery of Nineveh ..... 3:12-18
    - 1. Mockery of the weakness of her defenses ..... 3:12-13
    - 2. Mocking call to strengthen her defenses..... 3:14-15
    - 3. Mockery of her chief officials..... 3:16-18
  - F. Irreversible Destruction ..... 3:19

## Notes

1. Note that the “chief officials” of Nineveh, as I have called them, are the merchants, commanders, generals, shepherds, and nobles.
2. Note the phrase “I am against you.” It occurs in 2:13 and 3:5.
3. The figure “young lions” represents Assyria. They were powerful like lions; now they will be consumed as by lions.
4. Notice the attributes of God, particularly those mentioned in chapter 1.

## Outline of Habakkuk

The book of Habakkuk was probably written sometime between 609 and 598 B.C. during the reign of Jehoiakim. A tighter time frame of 609 to 605 B.C. is likely. This date best explains the identity of the wicked people in 1:2-4 (Jews in Judah), the super-power status of Babylon (which had to come after Nabopolassar in 625 B.C.), and the fact that Josiah (reign 640-609 B.C.) was exempted from seeing the invasion of Babylon (2 Kings 22:20). Verse 1:5 indicates that the fulfillment of the judgment on Judah will be within the prophet's lifetime ("in your days").

### Outline

- I. Question and Answer Regarding Sin in Judah ..... 1:1-11
  - A. Introduction to Habakkuk ..... 1:1
  - B. Question about Judah's ongoing sin..... 1:2-4
  - C. God's Answer: I will use Babylon to punish Judah ..... 1:5-11
    - 1. It will be a shocking surprise ..... 1:5
    - 2. God is raising up the Chaldeans to serve Him ..... 1:6a
    - 3. The fierceness of Babylon ..... 1:6b-11
  
- II. Question and Answer Regarding Babylon..... 1:12-2:20
  - A. Question about Babylon..... 1:12-17
    - 1. Objection to God's appointment..... 1:12
    - 2. How can God use wicked to punish more righteous?..... 1:13
    - 3. Will the nations ever stop killing each other?..... 1:14-17
  - B. God's Answer: Woe to Babylon ..... 2:1-20
    - 1. Habakkuk watches for the answer ..... 2:1
    - 2. Habakkuk commanded to record the answer: it is urgent..... 2:2-3
    - 3. Babylon is wicked..... 2:4-5
    - 4. First woe: Wealth taken away..... 2:6-8
    - 5. Second woe: What they build will itself cry for judgment . 2:9-11
    - 6. Third woe: Fire will consume their labor ..... 2:12-14
    - 7. Fourth woe: Evil they do will come on themselves..... 2:15-17
    - 5. Fifth woe: Uselessness of idols..... 2:18-20
  
- III. Habakkuk's Prayer Psalm ..... 3:1-19
  - A. Request to revive God's work..... 3:1-2
  - B. God's answer: A Theophany of judgment and deliverance ..... 3:3-15
    - 1. Description of the Theophany..... 3:3-4
    - 2. Judgment resulting in natural disaster..... 3:5-11
    - 3. Judgment resulting in national disasters ..... 3:12, 13b-15
    - 4. Israel's salvation ..... 3:13a
  - C. Habakkuk's Response ..... 3:16-18
    - 1. Fear at what God will do..... 3:16
    - 2. Joy in God despite calamity ..... 3:17-19

## Notes

1. Note the use of Hab. 2:4 in the New Testament: Rom. 1:17, Gal. 3:11, Heb. 10:38. The seeming varied application of the verse is an interesting interpretive problem in light of the single meaning of any given proposition.
2. The surprise of 1:5a is because Egypt was the dominant power over Israel's region. Egypt would be supplanted by Babylon.
3. Is 1:12 an objection or an agreement with God's appointment of Babylon as the instrument to mete out His punishment?
4. The book in general speaks of a near judgment and an eventual deliverance of Israel.
5. What is the answer to Habakkuk's initial question, i.e. "How can you use someone more wicked than we to judge us?"
  - a. Habakkuk does recognize God's appointment of Babylon as the instrument of judgment, but he wonders about the fairness of it.
  - b. God says that He will ultimately take care of Babylon too.
  - c. It is interesting to note that there are no "righteous" nations that God can use to judge other ones. But relative righteousness seems to be a valid thing to talk about, though it is not determinative in God's choice of instrument.
6. Note the prophet's deep trust in God at the end of chapter 3.

## Outline of Zephaniah

The book of Zephaniah is about the Day of the Lord. Zephaniah is a great-great-grandson of king Hezekiah (Hezekiah, Amariah, Gedaliah, Cushi, Zephaniah) and he prophesied during the days of King Josiah. This puts his ministry around 640-630 B.C.

### Outline

I. Introduction.....	1:1
II. Thorough Judgment on Judah and Jerusalem .....	1:2-18
A.    Certain judgment on Judah .....	1:2-13
B.    Description of the Day of the Lord .....	1:14-18
III. Call to Repentance .....	2:1-3
A.    The meek entreated to seek God.....	2:1-3a
B.    Judgment may pass over some.....	2:3b
IV. Judgment on the Nations.....	2:4-15
A.    Judgment on the seacoast nations (west) .....	2:4-7
B.    Judgment on Moab and Ammon (east).....	2:8-11
C.    Judgment on Ethiopia (south).....	2:12
D.    Judgment on Assyria, Nineveh (north) .....	2:13-15
V. Charges Against Israel .....	3:1-7
A.    The rebellion of the people .....	3:1-4
B.    The justice of God.....	3:5
C.    Lesson from destruction of other nations not heeded .....	3:6-7
VI. Future Judgment and Blessing .....	3:8-20
A.    Judgment and restoration of the nations .....	3:8-9
B.    Israel gathered and regenerated .....	3:10-13
C.    The King’s presence the guarantee of blessing.....	3:14-20

### Notes

1. 1:12 suggests an attitude that God is irrelevant to the affairs of the day; that He will not care either way what happens. How false! Notice the use of the term “lamps” which indicates a thorough searching out for these types of people. They will not escape!
2. Notice the “I will” statements of chapter 1 (2, 3 [3x], 4 [2x], 8, 9). There is no uncertainty here!
3. Notice that the book initially describes the Day of the Lord as a period of great darkness (1:15).
4. Note 2:10 where reasons are given for the destruction of the surrounding nations (pride, reproach and threats against God’s people Israel—see 2:8). 1:17 gives an additional reason, this for the judgment upon Judah and Jerusalem: sin.



5. Note 3:1-2 where reasons are given for the downfall of Jerusalem (oppression, disobedience, unteachable, unbelief, not drawn near to God).
6. Note 3:9ff where there is a period of great blessing.
7. The end of chapter 3 predicts the fulfillment of Deut. 26:19, the exaltation of Israel.
8. The “pure language” of 3:9 is not a universal language but is the fruit of regeneration for the nations. They will have pure speech as proof of what has happened to them. They will no longer heap insults, reproaches, and arrogant threats against Israel.

## Outline of Haggai

The book of Haggai consists of four prophetic messages from God to the leaders and people of Israel who had returned from the exile. These messages center around the call to rebuild the temple and the blessings and curses that are associated with either rebuilding or not doing so. The final message has to do with the defeat of the Gentile kingdoms which have caused so much difficulty for Israel over the years. Haggai's name means "festive."

### Outline

- I. First Message: Rebuild the Temple for the Glory of God ..... 1:1-15
  - A. The Setting: August 520 B.C..... 1:1
  - B. The Content of the Message ..... 1:2-11
    - 1. Disobedience of the People..... 1:2-4
    - 2. Consequences of Disobedience (Curses) ..... 1:5-6, 9-11
    - 3. Call to Build for God's Pleasure and Glory ..... 1:7-8
  - C. The People's Obedience and God's Stirring..... 1:12-15
  
- II. Second Message: Encouragement..... 2:1-9
  - A. The Setting: October 520 B.C..... 2:1
  - B. The Comparative Question about the Glory of the Temple..... 2:2-3
  - C. The Future Glory of the Temple in the Age of Peace..... 2:4-9
  
- III. Third Message:..... 2:10-19
  - A. The Setting: December 520 B.C. after the Temple is done ..... 2:10
  - B. The Question about Principles of Clean and Unclean ..... 2:11-13
  - C. The Application of the Principle (Why Curses) ..... 2:14-17
  - D. Obedience Brings Reversal of Curse ..... 2:18-19
  
- IV: Fourth Message: ..... 2:20-23
  - A. The Setting: Same Time as the Third Message ..... 2:20
  - B. Physical and Political Disturbance..... 2:21-22
  - C. Exaltation of Zerubbabel..... 2:23

### Notes

1. Notice the number of times the "word of the LORD" or "thus saith the LORD of hosts" or similar phrases are mentioned (27 times in 38 verses).
2. Notice the timeline of events:
  - a. 538 B.C. – Ezra 1:1-4 – Cyrus makes a proclamation that the temple is to be rebuilt. People return to the land.
  - b. 537/536 B.C. – Ezra 3:8 – Zerubbabel and Joshua begin to rebuild the temple.
  - c. 535-521 B.C. – Ezra 4:1-5, 23 – Through the reign of Cyrus until the reign of Darius, the efforts of the people are opposed.
  - d. 520 B.C. – The building of the temple is apparently finished by this point.
  - e. 520-464 B.C. – Ezra 4:6-23 – Opposition to the work on the city continues throughout the reigns of Darius (521-486 B.C., 35 years) and of Ahasuerus (485-465 B.C., 20 years).

- f. 464-423 B.C. – Artaxerxes I reigns over Persia.
  - g. 458 B.C. – Ezra returns to Jerusalem.
  - h. 444 B.C. – Nehemiah returns to Jerusalem. Opposition continues through the building of the walls of the city. The work of God is opposed constantly throughout the period from 535 to 444, about 90 years.
  - i. 433 B.C. – Nehemiah makes another trip to Jerusalem.
3. Notice the lack of care for the Lord's temple.
  4. Earnest consideration would produce understanding that the covenant (2:5) was at issue here. Blessing for obedience, cursing for rebellion is the general pattern of the covenant promises of God, though ultimate fulfillment is assured because of God's grace.
  5. Note the obedience of the people. God did a work on them and they did a work on His temple.
  6. See Ezra 3:12-13 regarding the former glory of the temple.
  7. There is a heavy note of eschatological hope in 2:6-9, 21-23. This has to be fulfilled in the millennial kingdom.

## Outline of Zechariah

The book of Zechariah is written to Israel after the Babylonian exile. Zechariah prophesied at the same time as Haggai (compare Haggai 1:1 with Zechariah 1:1, and see also Ezra 5:1 and 6:14). The dates given in 1:1, 1:7, and 7:1 correspond to Oct/Nov 520 B.C., Feb 519, and Dec 518.

Zechariah's name means "Jehovah remembers." Since his grandfather was Iddo, a priest (Neh. 12:4, 16), Zechariah was both a prophet and a priest. His father Berechiah probably died young so grandfather Iddo raised him. Zechariah was probably young in 520. This Zechariah is not the Zechariah in 2 Chron. 24:20-22 and Matthew 23:35, who was the (grand)son of Jehoiada (Berechiah may have been son of Jehoiada and father of Zechariah).

Many points of the outline are augmented with a sentence summarizing the content of the section.

### Outline

- I. Call to Repentance ..... 1:1-6
  - A. God calls the nation to repent and not be like their fathers..... 1:1-3
  - B. The fathers disobeyed God's word initially but repented ..... 1:4-6
  
- II. Zechariah's Eight Night Visions and Concluding Oracle..... 1:7-6:15
  - A. The four horsemen among the myrtle trees ..... 1:7-17  
God will once again show favor upon Israel.
  - B. The four horns and four craftsmen..... 1:18-21  
After their scattering, God will restore Israel.
  - C. The man with a measuring line ..... 2:1-13  
God will bless Jerusalem and the nations in the Kingdom.
  - D. The cleansing of Joshua the high priest ..... 3:1-10  
God will restore Israel's priestly ministry and send Messiah.
  - E. The lampstand and the two olive trees ..... 4:1-14  
God will enable Zerubbabel and Joshua to finish the temple.
  - F. The flying scroll..... 5:1-4  
God will punish every evildoer according to His word.
  - G. The woman in the basket ..... 5:5-11  
A future system of evil will be housed at Babylon.
  - H. Four chariots ..... 6:1-8  
The sovereign God will subdue the entire earth during the kingdom.
  - I. The oracle concerning Joshua..... 6:9-15  
Joshua's installment prefigures the priest-king, the coming Messiah.
  
- III. Question About Fasting and Future Blessing ..... 7:1-8:23
  - A. Question About Fasting ..... 7:1-3
  - B. Answer: Rebuke for Empty Ritual ..... 7:4-7  
God hates fake religious ritual.
  - C. God requires justice, but Israel ignored ..... 7:8-14  
God punished Israel's disobedience to maintain justice.

- D. Restoration of Jerusalem and regathering of her people..... 8:1-17  
Jerusalem will prosper as the city of the Great King.
- E. Jerusalem's future international prominence..... 8:18-23  
Many peoples will make pilgrimage to Jerusalem.
- IV. Zechariah's Two Oracles (Burdens) ..... 9:1-14:21
  - A. Burden Concerning the coming and rejection of Christ ..... 9:1-11:17
    - 1. Destruction of the nations ..... 9:1-8  
God will defeat Israel's enemies.
    - 2. Arrival and victory of the King..... 9:9-17  
The Messianic King will appear in Jerusalem for salvation.
    - 3. The failure of Israel's leaders, and God's restoration..... 10:1-12  
God will punish the evil leaders of Israel and will save Israel.
    - 4. Rejection of Israel's shepherds, past and future ..... 11:1-17  
God destroyed Israel in the past, for they insulted his prophets.
  - B. Burden concerning deliverance, cleansing, triumph ..... 12:1-14:21
    - 1. Jerusalem delivered from the nations ..... 12:1-9  
God will gloriously deliver Israel from its enemies.
    - 2. Repentance and cleansing at Messiah's coming..... 12:10-13:9  
Israel will repent in deep mourning and will be cleansed from sin.
    - 3. Inauguration of the Millennial Kingdom ..... 14:1-21  
God will win a great victory for Israel against the nations.  
God will bring geographical, governmental, and spiritual blessing.

## Notes

1. The genre of Zechariah is "apocalyptic"
  - a. Zechariah is a literary cousin to Ezekiel, Daniel, and Revelation.
  - b. Apocalyptic is concerned with eschatology. Following are some more features of Biblical apocalyptic:
    - i. It contains cycles of visions and explanations.
    - ii. It shows the spiritual turmoil of the prophet upon receiving the visions.
    - iii. It contains exhortation that makes application to the reader.
    - iv. It is rich in symbolism.
    - v. It is catastrophic in its outlook.
    - vi. The catastrophes lead to salvation and paradise.
    - vii. The outlook is based on a heavenly model of the future that is settled because of God's will and is thus as good as done.
2. Note the parallel between Zech. 1:3 and Mal. 3:7. James 4:8 is very similar.
3. Zech. 1:6 has the word "they" twice. The first one refers to the words of God. The second refers to the Jews who returned from the exile.
4. Note the parallel between Zech. 8:16b and Eph. 4:25.
5. Note the important text Zechariah 4:6.
6. Prophecies concerning Christ (see Old Testament Prophets, Dr. R. Bruce Compton).
  - a. His humanity and His coming in lowliness, 6:12
  - b. His Rejection and betrayal for thirty pieces of silver, 11:12-13

- c. His being struck by the sword of the Lord, 13:7
  - d. His coming in glory, 14:4
  - e. His kingship and priesthood, 6:13; 9:9; 14:9, 16
  - f. His reign, 9:10; 14:9-11, 16-21
  - g. His building the Lord's temple, 6:12-13
  - h. His establishing peace and prosperity, 3:10; 9:9-10
7. Prophecies concerning the end-times (see above)
- a. Final siege of Jerusalem, 12:1-3; 14:1-2
  - b. Initial victory of Judah's enemies, 14:2
  - c. The Lord's defense of Jerusalem, 14:3-4 (Armageddon)
  - d. The judgment of the nations, 12:9; 14:3
  - e. Topographical changes in Judah, 14:4-5 (Lord's return and kingdom)
  - f. The celebration of the feast of tabernacles in the kingdom, 14:16-19
  - g. Holiness of Jerusalem and the people, 14:20-21
8. Guide to the Visions (Merrill, *Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi*, p. 190–91).
- a. The four horsemen concern the Lord's sovereignty in Israel's restoration.
  - b. The four horns are about the persecution and dispersion of God's people.
  - c. The surveyor concerns preparation for restoration.
  - d. The priest pictures renewal of Israel's priestly ministry.
  - e. The menorah pictures Messiah as priest and king.
  - f. The basket refers to the return of evil to Babylon, where it came from.
  - g. The flying scroll refers to judgment for covenant disobedience.
  - h. The chariots concern the Lord's final and universal reign.
9. Some theology and application from Zechariah
- a. God will keep His promises to Jerusalem and Israel, even though they could say they are the chief of sinners. God will keep His promises to you too. He is faithful, even if we falter.
  - b. God has decreed a catastrophic future for the nation before the time of its blessing.
  - c. A real restored Jewish kingdom is coming, with the Messiah on its throne, ruling over the Jews and the rest of the world.
  - d. There seems to be a lot of repetition of the main ideas in Zechariah. All the more reason to pay careful attention to them because God has settled the matter in Heaven.
  - e. There are severe consequences for disobedience to God's Law. That principle applies today, even if the specific regulatory code is not the same.
  - f. The need for repentance and restoration of the nation is a figure of our personal need for repentance and reconciliation to God.
  - g. As hard-hearted as we think Israel was, so were we before salvation, and too often we act out like that even after we are saved.

## Outline of Malachi

The book of Malachi is a message from God to the people to return to faithful practice of the Mosaic covenant. Malachi probably prophesied sometime during the time period 445 to 430 B.C. about the time of Ezra and Nehemiah. He may have preached when Nehemiah was temporarily absent and laid the groundwork for Nehemiah's reforms. Malachi's name means "my messenger."

### Outline

- I. Introduction..... 1:1
- II. Message #1: God's Love for Israel and Opposition to Edom..... 1:2-5
- III. Message #2: God's Rebuke for Priestly Indiscretions..... 1:6-2:9
  - A. Summary of Dispute: No Honor for God ..... 1:6
  - B. The Profanity of Blemished Sacrifices ..... 1:7-14
  - C. Repentance Required from the Priests..... 2:1-4
  - D. Prototype of Priests' Responsibility..... 2:5-7
  - E. God's Rebuke for Unfaithfulness ..... 2:8-9
- IV. Message #3: God's Rebuke for Treachery/Idolatry/Divorce..... 2:10-17
  - A. Treachery of Idolatry by Marrying Foreign Wives..... 2:10-12
  - B. Treachery of Divorce with False Piety ..... 2:13-17
- VI. Message #4: Second Coming of Christ, Part 1 ..... 3:1-5
  - A. The Messenger and the Messiah Will Come ..... 3:1
  - B. The Messiah will Purify the Nation ..... 3:2-5
- VII. Message #5: God's Call for Repentance..... 3:6-18
  - A. God's Message: You Have Robbed Me..... 3:6-12
  - B. Israel's Reply: It is Useless to Serve God..... 3:13-15
  - C. God's Answer: Reward for Those Who Fear God..... 3:16-18
- VIII. Message #6: Second Coming of Christ, Part 2 ..... 4:1-6
  - A. The Sun of Righteousness Will Come, So Fear God..... 4:1-4
  - B. Elijah Will Come in Advance to Call for Repentance ..... 4:5-6

### Notes

1. Notice the ties between Malachi and the Mosaic covenant. Malachi is not making up a new religion as some critical scholars claim; he is rather pointing Israel back to what they have always been required to do under the Law of Moses.
2. Mal. 4:4 calls the nation to remember the covenant, like Joshua 1:13.
3. Mal. 2:2-3 speaks of consequences to the priests because of their sin, like the curses of Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28.

## Timeline (Dates B.C.)

1. Zerubbabel 537-516
2. Haggai, Zechariah 520
3. Esther 483-473
4. Ezra the book 457-444
5. Nehemiah 445-433 and ~424. He overlapped Ezra (Nehemiah 8, 12).
6. Malachi 433-424. Some commentators take an early date of 450 to 457, which could work but seems less likely.



## Outline of Matthew

Matthew is the “gospel of the king.” It records the public ministry of the Messiah-king and his offer to restore the kingdom to Israel. That offer was soundly rejected by the nation’s leadership and many of its citizens, and so the Lord turned to teaching in parables and working with His disciples. The appearance of the kingdom would be delayed. The King was killed, but rose again. He promised to return (16:27-28) to set up his throne to judge and rule the world (25:31-32).

### Outline

- I. Messiah’s Royal Credentials and Birth Narrative ..... 1:1-2:23
  - A. Genealogy ..... 1:1-17
  - B. Birth..... 1:18-2:12
  - C. Early persecution by Herod..... 2:13-23
  
- II. Early Ministry of the Messiah..... 3:1-10:42
  - A. John the Baptist, the forerunner, calls for repentance..... 3:1-12
  - B. Baptism of Jesus..... 3:13-17
  - D. Jesus passes test of the wilderness temptation ..... 4:1-11
  - E. Jesus moves to Capernaum in Galilee ..... 4:12-16
  - F. Jesus preaches repentance and calls disciples ..... 4:17-25
  - G. Sermon on the Mount..... 5:1-7:29
    - 1. Blessings pronounced on disciples ..... 5:1-12
    - 2. Disciples as salt and light..... 5:13-16
    - 3. Jesus comes to fulfill the Law of Moses ..... 5:17-20
    - 4. Jesus explains the true intent of the Law ..... 5:21-48
    - 5. Proper way to give, pray, and fast..... 6:1-18
    - 6. Serving one master..... 6:19-24
    - 7. Do not be anxious but put God’s kingdom first..... 6:25-34
    - 8. Do not focus on judging others ..... 7:1-6
    - 9. Ask God for what you need ..... 7:7-11
    - 10. Golden rule..... 7:12
    - 11. Two ways to live: Four illustrations ..... 7:13-27
    - 12. Jesus taught with authority..... 7:28-29
  - H. Miracles of healing..... 8:1-17
  - I. Cost of being a disciple ..... 8:18-22
  - J. Miracle in natural and spiritual realms..... 8:23-34
  - K. Jesus grants forgiveness to paralytic and heals him..... 9:1-8
  - L. Jesus calls Matthew ..... 9:9
  - M. Jesus and disciples criticized, two episodes ..... 9:10-17
  - N. More miracles of healing, resurrection, exorcism..... 9:18-34
  - O. Jesus’ compassion for the lost, need for laborers..... 9:35-38
  - P. Twelve disciples sent out to heal and preach *in Israel* ..... 10:1-42
  
- III. Rejection of Messiah..... 11:1-12:50
  - A. John the Baptist rejected (see also 14:1-12)..... 11:1-18

B. Jesus rejected.....	11:19-24
C. Invitation to be saved .....	11:25-30
D. Sabbath controversies .....	12:1-13
E. Jesus continues his mission despite plot to kill him .....	12:14-21
F. Pharisees commit the unpardonable sin and Jesus replies.....	12:22-37
G. Pharisees seek a sign; Jesus will not give them one .....	12:38-45
H. Whoever does the will of God are Jesus' family .....	12:46-50
IV. Messiah's Later Ministry .....	13:1-20:34
A. The kingdom parables.....	13:1-52
1. Soils.....	13:1-9
2. Explanation of parabolic method .....	13:10-17
3. Soils explained .....	13:18-23
4. Wheat and tares.....	13:24-30
5. Mustard seed and leaven.....	13:31-33
6. More explanation of the parabolic method .....	13:34-35
7. Wheat and tares explained .....	13:36-43
8. Hidden treasure, pearl of great price.....	13:44-46
9. Dragnet.....	13:47-50
10. The householder: blessing of understanding truth .....	13:51-52
B. Jesus rejected at his hometown .....	13:53-58
C. Flashback: the murder of John the Baptist .....	14:1-12
D. Feeding of the 5,000.....	14:13-21
E. Jesus walks on water .....	14:22-33
F. Jesus heals more people.....	14:34-36
G. True source of defilement and hypocrisy (it is not food).....	15:1-20
H. Jesus heals a Gentile .....	15:21-28
I. Jesus heals others.....	15:29-31
J. Feeding of the 4,000.....	15:32-39
K. Pharisees seek a sign; Jesus will not give them one (again) .....	16:1-4
L. Warning of the false doctrine of the Pharisees and Sadducees ....	16:5-12
M. Confession of Christ as the Son of God .....	16:13-20
N. Disclosure of Jesus' death and resurrection, rebuke of Peter ....	16:21-23
O. True Discipleship and future judgment.....	16:24-28
P. Preview of the kingdom: the Transfiguration.....	17:1-13
Q. Healing of demon-possessed boy; lesson about faith .....	17:14-21
R. Jesus discloses again His death and resurrection .....	17:22-23
S. Handling taxes and avoiding unnecessary offense .....	17:24-27
T. Humility is true greatness .....	18:1-5
U. How to deal with sin .....	18:6-35
1. Causing a believer to sin is a serious offense .....	18:6-7, 10-11
2. Believers must deal very strictly with sin.....	18:8-9
3. God will seek His children when they stray .....	18:12-14
4. Helping an unrepentant brother .....	18:15-20
5. Inter-personal forgiveness, evidence of salvation.....	18:21-35
V. Strict teaching about divorce and God's intent for marriage .....	19:1-12

W. Jesus' love for children .....	19:13-15
X. Rich young ruler and difficulty of entering the kingdom .....	19:16-26
Y. Reward for disciples; parable of laborers .....	19:27-20:16
Z. Jesus discloses a third time his death and resurrection.....	20:17-19
AA. Greatness comes through serving.....	20:20-28
AB. Healing of two blind men.....	20:29-34
V. The Last Week of Messiah's Pre-Cross Ministry .....	21:1-25:46
A. Triumphal Entry .....	21:1-11
B. Temple cleaned, healings .....	21:12-17
C. Fig tree cursed .....	21:18-22
D. Jesus is questioned about His authority .....	21:23-27
E. Parable of two sons: belief the way into the kingdom.....	21:28-32
F. Parable of the landowner: rejected by the tenants .....	21:33-46
G. Parable of the marriage feast: king rejected by subjects .....	22:1-14
H. Dishonest question about taxes .....	22:15-22
I. Dishonest question about resurrection and marriage.....	22:23-33
J. The Great Commandment .....	22:34-40
K. Jesus asks about the Christ—whose Son is He? .....	22:41-46
L. Jesus rebukes the Pharisees .....	23:1-36
M. Jesus laments .....	23:37-39
N. The Olivet Discourse .....	24:1-25:46
1. Destruction of the temple predicted.....	24:1-2
2. The disciples two questions: when? what sign? .....	24:3
3. Time of deception and tribulation.....	24:4-26
4. The second coming of Christ .....	24:27-31
5. Parable of fig tree: believers will know it is coming .....	24:32-35
6. But no one will know the day or hour; be ready.....	24:36-51
7. Parable of ten virgins: be ready .....	25:1-13
8. Parable of the talents: judged for faithfulness.....	25:14-30
9. Judgment on Gentile nations.....	25:31-46
VI. Passover, Betrayal, Death .....	26:1-27:66
A. Plot to kill Jesus, Judas plans betrayal .....	26:1-5, 14-16
B. Jesus anointed for burial by Mary .....	26:6-13
C. Passover meal with disciples = Last Supper .....	26:17-29
D. Prediction of Peter's denial .....	26:30-35
E. Prayers and arrest in Gethsemane.....	26:36-56
F. Unjust Jewish trial and condemnation for blasphemy .....	26:57-68
G. Peter denies Jesus.....	26:69-75
H. Unjust Roman trial .....	27:1-2, 11-25
I. Judas kills himself .....	27:3-10
J. Jesus beaten, mocked, and crucified .....	27:26-44
K. Death of Jesus .....	27:45-56
L. Burial of Jesus by Joseph of Arimathea .....	27:57-66

VII. Resurrection and the Great Commission .....	28:1-20
A. Discovery of the empty tomb.....	28:1-8
B. The women see Jesus .....	28:9-10
C. Chief priests pay off the guards.....	28:11-15
D. The disciples see Jesus and are given Great Commission .....	28:16-20

## Notes

1. The restoration of the kingdom in Israel was necessary because the nation had sinned badly and fallen under the curses of the Mosaic covenant.
2. 11:12 is often misunderstood. In the context of the rejection, imprisonment, and impending beheading of John the Baptist, Jesus is pointing out that His kingdom is being violently rejected. It is suffering violence from outsiders who want to take it away from those to whom it is being offered (see also Matthew 23:13).
3. There are about 43 parables in the gospels. Matthew 13 is the initial salvo of them. They were teaching tools used by the Lord to both reveal truth to those interested, and to conceal truth as a judgment against those who were rejecting Him.

## Outline of Mark

Mark is the “gospel of the servant.” It is the shortest of the gospels. It omits the birth narrative of Christ and begins with the public ministry of John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus.

The phrase “he arose” in Mark at 7:24 and 10:1 marks important geographical divisions in Mark’s gospel.

## Outline

- I. Prologue ..... 1:1-13
  - A. John the Baptist and his message of repentance ..... 1:1-8
  - B. Baptism of Jesus ..... 1:9-11
  - C. Temptation of Jesus ..... 1:12-13
  
- II. Ministry in Galilee, Capernaum, and nearby regions ..... 1:14-7:23
  - A. Jesus begins ministry and His message of repentance ..... 1:14-15
  - B. Call of Simon, Andrew, James, John ..... 1:16-20
  - C. Teaching; demons removed and healings performed ..... 1:21-45
  - D. Paralytic forgiven and healed ..... 2:1-12
  - E. Call of Matthew/Levi ..... 2:13-17
  - F. Parables occasioned by question about fasting ..... 2:18-22
  - G. Sabbath controversy ..... 2:23-3:6
  - H. Teaching and healing large crowds ..... 3:7-12
  - I. Twelve disciples selected to preach and heal ..... 3:13-19
  - J. Family wrongly concerned for Jesus; spiritual family ..... 3:20-21, 31-35
  - K. Rejection of Jesus with the unpardonable sin ..... 3:22-30
  - L. Jesus teaches parable of soils to crowd and explains to disciples .. 4:1-20
  - M. Parables of lamp, seed, mustard seed ..... 4:21-34
  - N. Miracle of quieting the Sea of Galilee ..... 4:35-41
  - O. Jesus frees a demon-possessed man; he became an evangelist ..... 5:1-20
  - P. Jesus heals woman and raises Jairus’s daughter ..... 5:21-43
  - Q. Rejection at Nazareth; unbelief hindered His work ..... 6:1-6
  - R. Twelve sent to preach repentance and heal; return ..... 6:7-13, 30-32
  - S. Murder of John the Baptist ..... 6:14-29
  - T. Feeding of 5000; lesson about faith ..... 6:33-44
  - U. Jesus walks on water: another lesson about faith ..... 6:45-52
  - V. Jesus heals many ..... 6:53-56
  - W. Pharisees’ wrong view of defilement; sin is true defilement ..... 7:1-23
  
- III. Ministry in Tyre, Sidon, Decapolis, Caesarea, etc ..... 7:24-10:52
  - A. Healing of Gentile woman’s daughter; deaf and mute ..... 7:24-37
  - B. Feeding of 4000 ..... 8:1-10
  - C. Pharisees unbelievably demand a sign ..... 8:11-13
  - D. Disciples demonstrate lack of understanding ..... 8:14-21
  - E. Healing of blind man ..... 8:22-26
  - F. Identity and future suffering of Christ revealed ..... 8:27-33

G. The cost and gain of discipleship .....	8:34-38
H. Transfiguration: preview of the coming kingdom .....	9:1-10
I. About Elijah coming first .....	9:11-13
J. Demon-possessed is healed; lesson in faith .....	9:14-29
K. Private instruction about Christ's death and resurrection .....	9:30-32
L. Lesson on humility .....	9:33-41
M. Stern lesson about sin and offenses .....	9:42-50
N. Marriage and divorce .....	10:1-12
O. Receiving the kingdom like a child.....	10:13-16
P. Rich young ruler and the problem of riches, reward .....	10:17-31
Q. More instruction about Christ's death and resurrection.....	10:32-34
R. True greatness comes through servanthood .....	10:35-45
S. Healing of Bartimaeus from blindness .....	10:46-52
IV. The Last Week of Pre-Cross Ministry, Jerusalem .....	11:1-16:20
A. Triumphal entry.....	11:1-11
B. Cursing of the fig tree: a lesson of faith.....	11:12-14, 24
C. Cleansing of the Temple .....	11:15-19
D. Forgiveness .....	11:25-26
E. Source of Jesus' authority questioned .....	11:27-33
F. Parable of the vineyard: Israel's rejection of Messiah.....	12:1-12
G. Taxes: separation of state and religion.....	12:13-17
H. Resurrection doctrine .....	12:18-27
I. Greatest commandment: love God, love neighbor .....	12:28-34
J. Conundrum of David's Lord: Messiah is Lord .....	12:35-37
K. Jesus rebukes the scribes.....	12:38-40
L. The richest giver, a poor widow .....	12:41-44
M. The Tribulation and second coming (Olivet Discourse) .....	13:1-
1. Tribulation.....	13:1-23
2. Second coming.....	13:24-27
3. Parable of fig tree: when the second coming is near .....	13:28-31
4. Be watchful and prayerful.....	13:32-37
N. Plot to kill Jesus .....	14:1-2, 10-11
O. Jesus anointed for burial while still alive.....	14:3-9
P. Passover meal, Lord's Table.....	14:12-25
Q. Peter's denial predicted.....	14:26-31
R. Gethsemane prayer.....	14:32-42
S. Jesus arrested .....	14:43-52
T. Trial before San Hedrin .....	14:53-65
U. Peter's denial.....	14:66-72
V. Trial before Pilate; abuse by soldiers .....	15:1-20
W. Crucifixion, death, and burial of Jesus.....	15:21-47
X. Discovery of the resurrection of Jesus .....	16:1-8
Y. Appearances of Jesus and Great Commission .....	16:9-20

## Notes

1. At 6:1-6, the outline indicates a hindrance to the work of the Lord due to unbelief. The text says, “He could do no mighty work...” Christians understand this to refer to the fact that God is not usually pleased to work mightily apart from faith. He can overcome unbelief any time He wishes, and can work in spite of it. There is no limitation in God or reduction of His sovereign power in the face of unbelief.
2. At 10:1, Jesus returns to Judea. This locale doesn’t technically fit under the heading for section III. However, the triumphal entry seems to be a more weighty point of division in the flow of the gospel, so it starts the next major section of the outline.

## Outline of Luke

The gospel of Luke was written by its namesake who was a partner of the apostles, and especially the apostle Paul. The text gives clear internal evidence that he is a very careful historian of the subject on which he writes.

### Outline

I. Introduction.....	1:1-4:13
A. Prologue .....	1:1-4
B. Announcement of coming birth of John the Baptist .....	1:5-25
C. Announcement of coming birth of Jesus.....	1:26-38
D. Mary visits Elizabeth; Magnificat.....	1:39-56
E. John’s birth; Benedictus .....	1:57-80
F. Jesus’s birth .....	2:1-20
G. Jesus is circumcised, blessed by Simeon and Anna.....	2:21-40
H. The boy Jesus left behind at Jerusalem.....	2:41-52
I. Preaching of John the Baptist – repent!.....	3:1-20
J. Baptism of Jesus.....	3:21-22
K. Genealogy of Jesus (through Mary).....	3:23-38
L. Temptation of Jesus.....	4:1-13
II. Ministry in Galilee .....	4:14-9:50
A. Summary statement of Galilee ministry.....	4:14-15
B. Nazareth rejection .....	4:16-30
C. Capernaum teaching, exorcism, heal Peter’s mother-in-law.....	4:31-41
D. More preaching about the kingdom in Galilee.....	4:42-44
E. Calling of first disciples: Peter .....	5:1-11
F. Healing of a leper.....	5:12-15
G. Paralyzed man forgiven and healed .....	5:16-26
H. Calling of first disciples: Levi.....	5:27-32
I. Fasting and the old versus the new .....	5:33-39
J. Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath; heals withered hand.....	6:1-11
K. Calling of the first disciples: the Twelve .....	6:12-15
L. Sermon on the “level place” .....	6:16-6:49
1. Large crowd from a large geographical area .....	6:16-19
2. The blessings.....	6:20-23
3. The woes .....	6:24-26
4. Kingdom morality.....	6:27-38
4. Parable of blind leading the blind .....	6:39-42
5. Parable of good fruit tree .....	6:43-45
6. Two foundations .....	6:46-49
M. Jesus heals centurion’s servant, raises widow’s son .....	7:1-16
N. Jesus encourages John the Baptist and commends him .....	7:17-30
O. Criticism of unsatisfied Israelites.....	7:31-35
P. Anointing of Jesus’s feet by woman; parable of forgiveness .....	7:36-50
Q. Ministry in many cities and villages with helpers.....	8:1-3



R. Parable of soils and lamp .....	8:4-18
S. Those truly related to Christ .....	8:19-21
T. Miracles of stopping the storm and demon exorcism.....	8:22-40
U. Miracle of healing a woman and raising a girl to life .....	8:41-56
V. Twelve sent to preach to Israel .....	9:1-11
W. Feeding of 5,000.....	9:12-17
X. Peter confesses Jesus as the Christ.....	9:18-22
Y. Self-denial a key part of discipleship.....	9:23-26
Z. Transfiguration: a preview of the coming kingdom.....	9:27-36
AA. Demon-possessed son is healed .....	9:37-42
AB. Jesus foretells of his betrayal.....	9:43-45
AC. The least is the greatest .....	9:46-50
III. Journey to Jerusalem.....	9:51-19:27
A. Samaritans reject Jesus.....	9:51-56
B. Difficulty and dedication required in following Jesus .....	9:57-62
C. 70 forerunners sent and return.....	10:1-24
D. Parable of Good Samaritan: who is my neighbor .....	10:25-37
E. Mary and Martha .....	10:38-42
F. Jesus teaches about prayer and God's inclination to answer.....	11:1-13
G. Jesus falsely accused of casting out demons by the Devil.....	11:14-26
1. Interruption of a mis-directed blessing .....	11:27-28
2. Sign-seekers given the sign of Jonah .....	11:29-32
H. Parable of lamp, and the lamp of the body is the eye .....	11:33-36
I. Controversy over washing, internal morality .....	11:37-44
J. Rebuke of the lawyers/scribes .....	11:45-54
K. Right respect for God and Christ drives out fear .....	12:1-12
L. Parable of a certain rich man .....	12:13-21
M. Seek first God's Kingdom; God will care for you .....	12:22-34
N. Be ready for the coming of Christ.....	12:35-40
O. Meanwhile, be serving Christ .....	12:41-48
P. Difficulty of discipleship .....	12:49-53
Q. Wisdom about the times and discernment .....	12:54-59
R. Repent or perish; God is patiently waiting.....	13:1-9
S. Jesus heals a woman who was bent over (on the Sabbath).....	13:10-17
T. Parables of mustard seed and leaven .....	13:18-21
U. Few who are saved.....	13:22-30
V. Jesus weeps over Jerusalem .....	13:31-35
W. Jesus heals a man with dropsy (on the Sabbath).....	14:1-6
X. Lessons from banquets: humility, service, salvation .....	14:7-24
Y. Difficulty of being a disciple of Christ .....	14:25-35
Z. Lost sheep, lost coin, and lost son .....	15:1-32
AA. Parable of bad steward: use money for wise purposes.....	16:1-17
AB. Brief teaching in divorce .....	16:18
AC. Parable of rich man and Lazarus: sufficiency of Scripture .....	16:19-31
AD. Sin, forgiveness, faith, and service.....	17:1-10

AE. Healing of 10 lepers; only one gives thanks.....	17:11-19
AF. Jesus teaches second coming and prior suffering .....	17:20-37
AG. Parable of the unjust judge: God will help His people.....	18:1-8
AH. Parable of haughty Pharisee and humble tax collector .....	18:9-14
AI. Blessing of the children; receive the kingdom as a child .....	18:15-17
AJ. Rich ruler seeking eternal life.....	18:18-29
AK. Jesus tells of his suffering, death, and resurrection.....	18:30-34
AL. Jesus heals a blind man.....	18:35-43
AM. Zacchaeus is saved .....	19:1-10
AN. Parable that the kingdom was not immediately to appear.....	19:11-27
IV. The Week of Suffering.....	19:28-24:53
A. Triumphal entry, cleansing of the temple .....	19:28-48
B. Question about Jesus's authority .....	20:1-8
C. Parable of the vineyard: rebuke of Israel and her leaders .....	20:9-18
D. Question about taxes .....	20:19-26
E. Question about resurrection.....	20:27-38
F. Jesus asks his own question about Christ, Son of David.....	20:39-47
G. Widow's small offering greater than all .....	21:1-4
H. Olivet Discourse: Second Coming.....	21:5-38
1. Disciples ask questions: when? what sign? .....	21:5-7
2. Jesus warns them about deception before his coming .....	21:8-9
3. Jesus foretells disasters and persecution .....	21:10-19
4. The sign of Jerusalem surrounded by armies.....	21:20-24
5. Signs immediately before the Lord's return .....	21:25-33
6. Warning to be ready for the coming of Christ .....	21:34-38
I. Judas plans to betray Christ.....	22:1-6
J. Passover – Last Supper.....	22:7-38
1. Upper room prepared .....	22:7-13
2. Passover meal.....	22:14-18
3. Lord's Supper.....	22:19-20
4. Christ foretells of the betrayer .....	22:21-23
5. Christ teaches on true greatness .....	22:24-30
6. Christ foretells Peter's denial.....	22:31-34
7. Christ teaches disciples to use normal means of support .....	22:35-38
K. Gethsemane.....	22:39-54
1. Christ's prayers and blood-sweat.....	22:39-46
2. Betrayal and arrest .....	22:47-54
L. Trials and Crucifixion.....	22:55
1. Denial by Peter.....	22:55-62
2. Christ beaten .....	22:63-65
3. Trial before Sanhedrin .....	22:66-71
4. Trial before Pilate .....	23:1-7
5. Trial before Herod.....	23:8-12
6. Trial before Pilate a second time .....	23:13-25
7. Crucifixion .....	23:26-49

M. Burial and Resurrection.....	23:50-24:53
1. Jesus' body is buried.....	23:50-55
2. Sabbath rest.....	23:56-56
3. Women discover the tomb is empty.....	24:1-3
4. Angels announce the resurrection of Christ.....	24:4-8
5. Women report to the disciples .....	24:9-11
6. Peter checks the tomb .....	24:12
7. Jesus appears to the two disciples on the road.....	24:13-32
8. Two disciples report to the 11.....	24:33-35
9. Jesus appears to the 11 and others that evening.....	24:36-45
10. Jesus gives the Great Commission.....	24:46-49
11. Jesus ascends to Heaven .....	24:50-53

## Notes

1. The statement of 4:23 indicates that Jesus had been ministering around Capernaum for enough time that He was well known throughout that region.
2. Take careful note of the times that Jesus went aside to pray: 4:42, 5:16, 6:12.
3. Some study Bibles have a title above chapter 6 "Jesus Works on the Sabbath." That is not at all what the passage teaches. It records that the disciples were doing something that the legalistic Pharisees *wrongly interpreted* as work. The text doesn't tell us here that Jesus was even doing that behavior. It teaches that Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath. He made it.
4. Jesus proclaimed forgiveness for two individuals (5:20-21, 7:48-49). In both incidents, those who were observing expressed outrage or doubt that Jesus could do this. He is God, so He can.
5. The parable of the rich man and Lazarus in 16:19-31 teaches that the revelation God has given of salvation in Scripture is all that is needed for someone to be saved. But if a person rejects that, even a stupendous miracle such as a resurrection from the dead will not convince them. Also, the parable tells us that there is no second chance at salvation or relief in the punishment of Hell.
6. Note 17:15-18. The Lord Jesus counts giving of thanks as giving glory to God. When you are thankful to God, that glorifies God.
7. In 18:35-43, Jesus heals a blind man. The text does not tell us the name of the blind man, so I have left the name out of the outline. Mark 10:46 is the only gospel that records the name Bartimaeus, and that he was healed as Jesus went out of Jericho. This account concerns Jesus coming near to Jericho, as if entering the city. It is possible there were two healings of a blind men. Or, it is possible that Jesus was moving between an old portion of the city and the new portion of the city of Jericho. Adding to the complexity, Matthew 20:29-34 records that there were *two* blind men.

## Outline of John

The other gospels focus on Jesus as King, Servant, and Son of Man, but John's approach is somewhat different. The gospel of John is the gospel of the Son of God, demonstrating the deity of Christ.

### Outline

- I. Prologue ..... 1:1-18
  - A. The Word: deity, creation, life, light..... 1:1-5
  - B. Forerunner John the Baptist ..... 1:6-8
  - C. Rejection of the Light..... 1:9-11
  - D. Some received the Light ..... 1:12-13
  - E. The incarnation of the Word..... 1:14
  - F. John testifies of the Word ..... 1:15
  - G. The grace of God declared in the Son..... 1:16-18
  
- II. Beginning of Jesus' Public Ministry ..... 1:19-4:54
  - A. Question about John's identity..... 1:19-28
  - B. John testifies about Jesus as the Son of God at his baptism..... 1:29-34
  - C. Jesus calls Andrew, John, and Peter to follow Him ..... 1:35-42
  - D. Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael to follow him..... 1:43-51
  - E. Miracle: water to wine in Cana ..... 2:1-12
  - F. First cleansing of the temple..... 2:13-17
  - G. Sign of the resurrection of Christ: destroy this temple ..... 2:18-22
  - H. Character of the heart of man and true belief..... 2:23-24
  - I. Visit with Nicodemus: you must be born again ..... 3:1-21
  - J. John the Baptist decreases, Christ increases ..... 3:22-36
  - K. Ministry to the Samaritan woman at the well ..... 4:1-26
  - L. Jesus tells disciples to observe the harvest field of souls ..... 4:27-38
  - M. Jesus ministers to Samaritans in Sychar..... 4:39-42
  - N. Jesus ministers in Galilee, heals nobleman's son ..... 4:43-54
  
- III. Mixed Response to Jesus' Ministry ..... 5:1-12:50
  - A. Healing of a paralytic on the Sabbath; criticism ..... 5:1-16
  - B. Jesus reveals He is equal with God; Jews want to stone..... 5:17-30
  - C. Four witnesses to the identity of Jesus ..... 5:31-47
  - D. Feeding of 5,000; crowd wants to make Him king ..... 6:1-15
  - E. Jesus walks on the Sea..... 6:16-21
  - F. Bread of life discourse: believe in Christ for eternal life..... 6:22-71
  - G. Jesus' brothers criticize him..... 7:1-9
  - H. Jesus preaches at Tabernacles; persecution and belief..... 7:10-52
  - I. Woman caught in adultery forgiven ..... 8:1-11
  - J. Light of the world discourse: believe in Christ for life ..... 8:12-30
  - K. True sons of Abraham and God; Jews desire to kill Jesus..... 8:31-59
  - L. Heals a blind man on the Sabbath; rejection by Pharisees ..... 9:1-41
  - M. Good shepherd illustration; mixed response ..... 10:1-21

N. Jesus identifies Himself as Son of God, one with the Father.....	10:22-42
O. Resurrection of Lazarus, for the glory of God .....	11:1-44
P. Pharisees plot to kill Christ in response to the resurrection.....	11:45-57
Q. Christ anointed before his burial; priests continue to plot .....	12:1-11
R. Triumphal entry into Jerusalem.....	12:12-19
S. Final public teaching about Christ's death and call to faith .....	12:20-50
IV. Upper Room Discourse: Preparing the Disciples .....	13:1-17:26
A. Washing of the disciples feet: an example of service .....	13:1-17
B. The betrayer predicted and revealed .....	13:18-30
C. Jesus announces his imminent departure .....	13:31-33
D. New commandment: love one another.....	13:34-35
E. Peter wishes to follow Christ but will fall .....	13:36-38
F. Do not be troubled: Christ will receive you to Himself.....	14:1-4
G. Various questions and answers .....	14:5-24
1. Thomas's question about the way.....	14:5-7
2. Philip's question about the Father.....	14:8-11
3. Asking in Christ's name and keeping His commands ....	14:12-21
4. Judas's question about the Lord disclosing Himself.....	14:22-24
H. Promise of the Holy Spirit in place of Christ.....	14:25-31
I. Abiding in the vine to bear fruit .....	15:1-11
J. Love one another as Christ has loved us .....	15:12-17
K. The world hates believers .....	15:18-25, 16:1-4
L. The Holy Spirit will come and guide the disciples.....	15:26-27, 16:5-15
M. Confusion over when and where Christ is going .....	16:16-22
N. Asking the Father in the name of Christ .....	16:23-24, 26-27
O. The disciples initially confused by figurative language.....	16:25, 29-33
P. The High Priestly prayer.....	17:1-????
1. Christ prays about His own work.....	17:1-5
2. Christ prays for His disciples: Father, keep them .....	17:6-19
3. Christ prays for future believers to be united.....	17:20-23
4. Christ prays for all believers to be with Him.....	17:24-26
V. Suffering of Christ, Death, and Resurrection.....	18:1-21:25
A. Jesus betrayed and arrested .....	18:1-11
B. First trial, before Annas; Peter starts to fail .....	18:12-23
C. Second trial, before Caiaphas.....	18:24
D. Peter denies the Lord again.....	18:25-27
E. Third trial, before Pilate; Jesus a king and witness to truth.....	18:28-40
F. Jesus beaten and mocked .....	19:1-3
G. Still before Pilate, and rejected by the people.....	19:4-16
H. Crucifixion and death of the King of the Jews.....	19:17-30
I. Death confirmed by examination and piercing.....	19:31-37
J. Burial by Joseph and Nicodemus .....	19:38-42
K. Resurrection of Jesus discovered .....	20:1-10
L. Christ appears to Mary Magdalene (morning) .....	20:11-18

M. Christ appears to disciples, without Thomas (evening) .....	20:19-25
N. Christ appears to disciples, with Thomas (8 days later) .....	20:26-29
O. Epilogue: Why John wrote the gospel: to cause belief .....	20:30-31
P. Christ appears to seven disciples on a fishing trip.....	21:1-14
Q. Christ ministers to Peter and foretells his future.....	21:15-23
R. Conclusion: much more could be written .....	21:24-25

## Notes

1. The four confirming witnesses to Jesus' identity (5:31-47) are the testimony of John the Baptist, the miraculous works Christ has done, the testimony of the Father, and the testimony of the Scriptures. Beside this, there is the testimony of Jesus Himself. Despite these clear witnesses, many Jews were unwilling to come to Jesus to receive life. The text in 8:13-19 reveals a similar issue about witnesses supporting the identity of Christ.
2. Jesus reveals in 6:26 that He knows the real motivation of the crowd: they were interested in more welfare (free food) than in the spiritual teaching of the Lord.
3. The end of chapter 6 (verses 41, 60, 66) shows how the Jews and fair-weather disciples responded negatively to the Lord's teaching about eternal life. The true disciples like Peter knew that the Lord had the words of eternal life and that those words could not be found elsewhere.
4. The events in chapter 7 hinge on the prior events of chapter 5 where the Jewish leaders sought to kill Jesus (5:18).
5. The blind man of chapter 9 was ordained to be that way from birth in order to display the works of God when Christ came to heal him.
6. The washing of the disciples' feet in chapter 13 was not only an example, but also an illustration of the need for continual cleansing from sin.

## Outline of Acts

Acts is all about the early church. It is sometimes called the Acts of the Holy Spirit because it shows the ministry of the Spirit through the early church. It is a continuation of Luke's report about what Christ began to do and teach in His earthly ministry.

### Outline

- I. The Birth of the Church ..... 1:1-3:26
  - A. The Promise of the Holy Spirit: Given ..... 1:1-11
    - 1. The Lord's Pre-Crucifixion Ministry ..... 1:1
    - 2. The Lord's Post-Resurrection Ministry ..... 1:2-5
    - 3. The Disciple's Question About the Kingdom and Jesus' Answer 1:6-8
    - 4. The Lord's Ascension..... 1:9-11
  - B. The Promise of the Holy Spirit: Awaited..... 1:12-26
    - 1. Their One Purpose in Prayer..... 1:12-14
    - 2. The Selection of Matthias as an Apostle..... 1:15-26
  - C. The Promise of the Holy Spirit: Fulfilled..... 2:1-13
    - 1. The Disciples Receive the Holy Spirit..... 2:1-4
    - 2. The Proof of the Promise: Filling of the Spirit and Tongues 2:5-13
  - D. The First Christian Sermon and Response..... 2:14-40
    - 1. The Reception of the Holy Spirit and the Analogy of Joel 2:14-21
    - 2. The Resurrection of Christ and Reference to David ..... 2:22-31
    - 3. The Exalted Position of Christ as Lord..... 2:32-36
    - 4. The Sorrowful Response of the Hearers ..... 2:37
    - 5. The Invitation to be Saved ..... 2:38-40
  - E. The First Local Church..... 2:41-47
    - 1. The First Immersion (Baptism)..... 2:41
    - 2. The Activities of the Church..... 2:42-27
  - F. The Second Christian Sermon ..... 3:1-26
    - 1. Healing of a lame man ..... 3:1-9
    - 2. The amazed response of the crowd..... 3:10-11
    - 3. Peter exalted Christ, whom the people ignorantly killed.. 3:12-18
    - 4. Peter calls for repentance ..... 3:19-26
- II. The Early Troubles of the Church ..... 4:1-8:3
  - A. Persecution by the Jews and Response ..... 4:1-31
    - 1. Peter and John harassed by the Sanhedrin ..... 4:1-22
    - 2. Prayer of the church for boldness and fulfillment ..... 4:23-31
    - 3. Continued faithfulness ..... 4:32-37
  - B. Lying in the Church..... 5:1-16
    - 1. Sin and Death of Ananias and Sapphira ..... 5:1-11
    - 2. Signs and Wonders (fulfillment of prayer in 4:30)..... 5:12-16
  - C. Apostles imprisoned, beaten, released ..... 5:17-42
  - D. Martyrdom of Stephen ..... 6:1-8:3
    - 1. Selection of First Deacons ..... 6:1-7

2. Preaching of Stephen and False Accusation .....	6:8-15
3. Defense of Stephen .....	7:1-53
4. Death of Stephen .....	7:54-60
5. Saul's Participation and Great Persecution Against the Church	8:1-3
III. Progress of the Church around Israel .....	8:4-11:30
A. Samaria .....	8:4-25
1. Philip's preaching and healing .....	8:4-8
2. Opposition by Simon .....	8:9-11
3. Apparent conversion of Simon .....	8:12-13
4. Apostles join the evangelistic effort and the Spirit is received	8:14-17
5. Simon's true colors revealed .....	8:18-24
6. Return of the apostles .....	8:25
B. Ethiopia .....	8:26-39
C. Caesarea and Environs .....	8:40
D. Conversion of Saul .....	9:1-30
E. Rest from Persecution .....	9:31
F. Missions to Lydda and Joppa .....	9:32-43
G. Gentiles in Caesarea .....	10:1-11:18
H. Paul and Barnabas minister in Antioch .....	11:19-26 (and 12:25)
I. Help for famine-stricken in Judea .....	11:27-30
IV. Persecution by Herod .....	12:1-24
A. Martyrdom of James .....	12:1-2
B. Imprisonment and Release of Peter .....	12:3-19
C. Death of Herod .....	12:20-23
D. Rest from Persecution and Growth .....	12:24
V. Progress of the Church Throughout the Roman Empire/Gentiles	13:1-21:14
A. First missionary tour .....	13:1-14:27
B. Jerusalem Council .....	15:1-35
C. Second missionary tour .....	15:36-18:22
D. Ministry of Apollos .....	18:24-28
E. Third missionary tour .....	18:23, 19:1-21:14
VI. Paul's Imprisonment .....	21:15-28:31
A. Journey to Jerusalem .....	21:15-25
B. Arrest .....	21:26-40
C. Public Testimony and Defense .....	22:1-21
D. Near Roman Torture .....	22:22-29
E. Sanhedrin Trial .....	22:30-23:10
F. Plan to Kill Paul Foiled .....	23:11-35
G. Felix Trial and Delay .....	24:1-26
H. Festus Trial, Retrial, and Sending to Rome .....	24:27-26:32
I. Dangerous Journey to Rome .....	27:1-28:16
J. Ministry in Rome while under house arrest .....	28:17-31



## Notes

1. One of the key aspects of Acts is the number of times it mentions the word of God spreading, being received, growing and multiplying (6:7; 8:4; 11:1; 12:24; 13:49; 15:35; 19:10, 19:20).
2. We see cyclical persecution and rest periods in the church, although the rest periods are peppered with persecution as the church progresses, as Paul's missionary tours demonstration in part V. Some instances of persecution were tough enough to warrant being called out in great detail, as with Herod's persecution in part IV.

## Outline of Romans

Romans is Paul's great treatise on the doctrine of salvation—including sin, redemption, justification, and sanctification. It discusses the relationship of Israel to God's plan of salvation for the Gentiles, and emphasizes God's sovereignty in all things.

### Outline

I. Introduction.....	1:1-17
A. Salutation .....	1:1-7
B. Paul's Compulsion to Preach the Gospel.....	1:8-15
C. Theme of the Book: The Gospel of Christ .....	1:16-17
1. Salvation .....	1:16
2. The Righteousness of God.....	1:17
II. Justification by Faith.....	1:18-4:25
A. Unrighteousness of Man .....	1:18-3:20
1. Pagan Gentiles .....	1:18-1:32
2. The Hypocritical and Confident Jew .....	2:1-3:8
3. All Mankind Guilty.....	3:9-20
B. Righteousness from God .....	3:21-4:25
1. Received by Faith .....	3:21-3:31
2. Applied by Imputation .....	4:1-25
III. Sanctification: Living as a Justified Person .....	5:1-8:39
A. Regarding the Benefits of Justification .....	5:1-11
B. Regarding the Reign of Death vs. of Grace .....	5:12-21
C. Regarding Sin.....	6:1-23
D. Regarding the Sin Nature.....	7:1-25
E. Regarding the Holy Spirit.....	8:1-27
F. Regarding Eternal Security.....	8:28-39
IV. The Gospel and Israel .....	9:1-11:36
A. The Sovereignty of God.....	9:1-33
B. The Responsibility of Man.....	10:1-21
C. The Election of the Nation of Israel.....	11:1-36
V. Sanctification, Part 2.....	12:1-15:13
A. Regarding Life Dedication.....	12:1-2
B. Regarding Spiritual Gifts in the Body.....	12:1-13
C. Regarding Attitude toward Persecutors.....	12:14-21
D. Regarding Governmental Authority.....	13:1-7
E. Regarding a Proper Walk .....	13:8-14
F. Regarding Relationships with Fellow Believers.....	14:1-15:7
VI. Paul's Ministry in Spreading the Gospel.....	15:8-15:33
A. The Gospel Available to Gentiles .....	15:8-13

B. Through Paul's Past Ministry .....	15:14-21
C. Through Paul's Desired Future Ministry .....	15:22-33
VII. Closing .....	16:1-27
A. Greetings .....	16:1-16
B. Separation from Divisive People.....	16:17-20
C. Greetings .....	16:21-24
D. Doxology.....	16:25-27

## Notes

1. Consider these interesting facts: of the 433 verses in Romans, a total of 61 mention one or more of the words righteous, righteousness, justify, justified, justification, reckon, reckoned, impute, or imputed. Faith or belief is mentioned in 54 verses. The word gospel is specifically mentioned in 13 verses. If we go beyond the mere word counts, we see that a large portion of the book is devoted to these important ideas.

## Outline of 1 Corinthians

This letter to the Corinthian church is actually the second letter Paul wrote to the church (1 Cor. 5:9). It contains material very relevant to the church in every century, including our own.

### Outline

- I. Introduction..... 1:1-9
  - A. Greeting..... 1:1-3
  - B. Thanksgiving for God’s work in the church ..... 1:4-9
  
- II. Problems in the Church and Solutions..... 1:10-6:20
  - A. Divisions ..... 1:10-4:21
    - 1. Call for unity ..... 1:10-17
    - 2. The wisdom of God vs. the “wisdom” of men..... 1:18-2:16
    - 3. Divisions are evidence of carnality ..... 3:1-4
    - 4. God’s ministers and God’s ministry ..... 3:5-4:21
  - B. Sexual immorality ..... 5:1-13
  - C. Lawsuits ..... 6:1-11
  - D. Excuses for Sin..... 6:12-20
  
- III. Questions from the Corinthians and Answers ..... 7:1-16:4
  - A. Marriage and divorce ..... 7:1-40
    - 1. Married people ..... 7:1-7
    - 2. Unmarried and widows ..... 7:8-9
    - 3. Divorce of two Christians, or one non-Christian ..... 7:10-16
    - 4. Principle of living as called..... 7:17-24
    - 5. Virgins..... 7:25-38
    - 6. Widows ..... 7:39-40
  - B. Food offered to idols ..... 8:1-11:1
    - 1. Introduction and the issue of Christian liberty ..... 8:1-13
    - 2. Paul restricts liberty to increase ministry ..... 9:1-9:27
    - 3. The danger of idolatry..... 10:1-22
    - 4. The principle of living for God’s glory..... 10:23-11:1
  - C. Roles of men and women ..... 11:2-16
  - D. The Lord’s table ..... 11:17-34
  - E. Gifts of the Spirit ..... 12:1-14:40
    - 1. The church: many members, different gifts ..... 12:1-30
    - 2. Love: the way to exercise spiritual gifts ..... 13:1-13
    - 3. The gifts of prophecy and tongues..... 14:1-25
    - 4. Edifying church meetings, not disorderly ones..... 14:26-40
  - F. The Resurrection..... 15:1-58
    - 1. The gospel and witnesses to the resurrection of Christ.... 15:1-11
    - 2. Supposing Christ is *not* raised?..... 15:12-19
    - 3. Christ the firstfruits of all who will be raised ..... 15:20-28
    - 4. Further consequences if Christ is *not* raised ..... 15:29-34
    - 5. The glorified body and victory over death..... 15:35-58

G. Financial offerings ..... 16:1-4

IV. Closing ..... 16:5-20

    A. Travel and ministry plans..... 16:5-12

    B. Closing exhortations..... 16:13-18

    C. Greetings ..... 16:19-23

**Notes**

1. Note the sarcasm of the apostle Paul in 4:8-10.
2. Note the Corinthians slogans or proverbs in 6:12-13 and again in 10:23.

## Outline of 2 Corinthians

This is the fourth letter Paul wrote to the Corinthians. Between 1 and 2 Corinthians, he wrote a “severe” letter (2 Cor. 2:4), and followed up with this letter.

### Outline

- I. Introduction..... 1:1-2
  - A. Authors and Recipients ..... 1:1
  - B. Greeting..... 1:2
  
- II. The Apostle’s Ministry ..... 1:3-7:16
  - A. Suffering and comfort ..... 1:3-7
  - B. Trouble cultivates trust in God..... 1:8-11
  - C. Paul was sincere, not duplicitous, in relating to the Corinthians . 1:12-14
  - D. Paul’s change in ministry travel plans ..... 1:15-2:2
  - E. Forgiveness for the offender is encouraged..... 2:3-11
  - F. The absence of Titus ..... 2:12-13
  - G. Thanksgiving to God who ministers through Paul..... 2:14-17
  - H. The Corinthians were Paul’s introduction letter ..... 3:1-3
  - I. The glory of Paul’s new covenant ministry compared to the old.... 3:4-11
  - J. Bold and open ministry despite blindness from Satan ..... 3:12-4:6
  - K. Gospel is carried in frail vessels so as to honor God ..... 4:7-18
  - L. The eternal glory of presence with the Lord ..... 5:1-8
  - M. The judgment seat of Christ ..... 5:9-11
  - N. The compelling message of new creation and reconciliation ..... 5:12-6:2
  - O. Proof of Paul’s honest ministry..... 6:3-10
  - P. Paul’s love for the Corinthians, and hope for reciprocation..... 6:11-13
  - Q. Call for separation from sin to holiness ..... 6:14-7:1
  - R. The Corinthians responded with godly sorrow ..... 7:2-16
  
- III. Teaching about the Financial Offering ..... 8:1-9:15
  - A. Example of the Macedonian Churches ..... 8:1-6
  - B. Call to Corinthians to abound in the grace of giving ..... 8:7
  - C. Example of Christ..... 8:8-9
  - D. Counsel for Corinthians to be ready with an offering..... 8:10-15
  - E. Titus and another person to help administer the gift ..... 8:16-24
  - F. Theology of giving ..... 9:1-15
  
- IV. Defense of Paul’s Apostleship..... 10:1-12:13
  - A. Paul does not minister according to the flesh ..... 10:1-6
  - B. Paul exercises divinely-granted authority ..... 10:7-11
  - C. Paul ministers in his God-given place..... 10:12-18
  - D. Paul desires faithfulness in the Corinthians ..... 11:1-4
  - E. Paul offered the gospel free of charge..... 11:5-15
  - F. Paul’s “foolish” boasting in his suffering..... 11:16-33
  - G. Paul has seen Paradise..... 12:1-6

- H. God gives Paul a thorn to humble him..... 12:7-10
- I. Paul works the signs of an apostle..... 12:11-13
  
- V. Paul will Return to Corinth a Third Time..... 12:14-13:14
  - A. He intended to give, not take, from the Corinthians ..... 12:14-18
  - B. He hopes that the visit will be a good one..... 12:19-21
  - C. This third visit will prove if they are genuine ..... 13:1-6
  - D. He hopes the Corinthians will be compliant ..... 13:7-10
  - E. Closing greeting..... 13:11-14

## Notes

1. The change in travel plans (1:15-2:2) was not an indication of flightiness on Paul's part. There were legitimate reasons, one of which was the timing of the visit at which Paul did not want to extend their sorrow from the prior visit and letters.
2. Forgiveness needs to be extended promptly lest Satan gets a foothold in a situation.
3. The transition from Paul's troubled soul in 2:13 to thanksgiving in 2:14 reminds us to shift our gaze heavenward when troubles come. Joy can return in that manner.
4. There is somewhat of an abrupt transition between Paul's statement of love for the Corinthians (6:11-13) and the call for separation, and then back to his desire to have them open their hearts (7:2). There is a sin problem in the lives of the Corinthians that hinders their proper relationship with the apostle Paul.

## Outline of Galatians

Of all the churches to which Paul wrote, the churches of Galatia were in the most danger. Some Galatians were turning away from the true gospel to a different ‘gospel.’

### Outline

- I. Introduction of the Letter ..... 1:1-5
  - A. Author ..... 1:1-2a
  - B. Recipients ..... 1:2b
  - C. Greeting ..... 1:3-5
  
- II. There is Only One Gospel: Based on Grace, not Law-keeping ..... 1:6-2:21
  - A. Warning to the Galatians who were turning away ..... 1:6-10
  - B. Origin of the Gospel: not man, but Jesus Christ ..... 1:11-2:21
    - 1. Paul was not initially in contact with other people ..... 1:11-17
    - 2. Paul briefly saw the apostles in Jerusalem ..... 1:18-20
    - 3. Paul spent a lengthy time in Syria and Cilicia ..... 1:21-24
    - 4. Paul briefly conferred with apostles in Jerusalem ..... 2:1-10
    - 5. Paul rebuked Peter’s retreat from the Gentiles ..... 2:11-21
  
- III. The Gospel is Justification and Sanctification by Faith ..... 3:1-4:31
  - A. The saving gifts of God come through faith, not Law ..... 3:1-14
  - B. The relation of the Law to the Abrahamic Covenant ..... 3:15-22
  - C. The Christian’s new relationship to God as adult sons ..... 3:23-4:7
  - D. The danger of returning to the Law ..... 4:8-20
  - E. The allegory of Abraham’s sons: freedom or bondage ..... 4:21-31
  
- IV. The Gospel Applied ..... 5:1-6:10
  - A. Exhortation to stand firm in gospel freedom ..... 5:1-12
  - B. Exhortation to walk by the Spirit and serve in love ..... 5:13-26
  - C. Exhortations to serve others ..... 6:1-10
    - 1. Restore the fallen ..... 6:1
    - 2. Bearing our load and helping others bears theirs ..... 6:2-5
    - 3. Support the pastor ..... 6:6
    - 4. Sow good by doing good to all, especially the church ..... 6:7-10
  - D. Personal appeal: only boast in the cross, not in Law-keeping ..... 6:11-15
  
- V. Closing of the Letter ..... 6:16-18

### Notes

1. The point of 1:11-2:10 is not to defend of Paul’s apostleship, although it does so indirectly. The real point is to explain that the gospel did not originate with man. Paul received it from Jesus Christ. It was the same as the gospel preached by the other apostles, yet Paul did not receive it from the apostles.



2. The visit to Jerusalem mentioned in 2:1-10 is likely the visit mentioned in Acts 11. But there is debate about this, as some equate it with the visit detailed in Acts 15 after Paul's first missionary tour.
3. When you read "even so we" in Galatians 4:3, you must figure out whether Paul is speaking of "we" as all believers were under the elements of the world and under the law, or whether "we" refers to the Jewish nation. Similarly, are "those under the law in verse 5 precisely the same as the "we" of verse 5 who have received adoption as sons? Is Paul speaking completely in individual terms, or is does he have in mind in part the era before Christ and the era after Christ?
4. 3:15-22 advances the argument that the law was a temporary administrative step put in place until the promise to Abraham could be fulfilled in Christ, especially in regard to Gentiles. As such, the law cannot be against the promises of God or replaces those promises; it was meant as a step to *advance* the promise program.
5. In 4:21-31, the issue is not merely bondage, but that those who remain in or return to that kind of bondage are *cast out* and not heirs. This refers to a lack of true saving grace. Those who return to such bondage gives evidence that they never truly escaped it in the first place.

## Outline of Ephesians

Acts 18 and 19 record the history of the origin of the church in Ephesus. Revelation 2:1-7 records a warning from Christ to the church about a generation after Paul wrote.

Ephesians is one of the prison epistles, written by the apostle Paul during the at least two-year imprisonment recorded in Acts 28.

### Outline

- I. Greeting..... 1:1-2
- II. The Doctrine of Salvation..... 1:3-3:21
  - A. Chosen for holiness and adoption – God the Father ..... 1:3-6
  - B. Redeemed for forgiveness and inheritance – God the Son ..... 1:7-12
  - C. Sealed and guaranteed for final redemption – God the Spirit..... 1:13-14
  - D. Prayer of thanks and request for spiritual wisdom..... 1:15-23
  - E. Initial condition of humanity: dead in sin..... 2:1-3
  - F. God makes believers alive by grace through faith without works.. 2:4-10
  - G. Relationship of Gentiles to Jews and God’s covenants ..... 2:11-3:21
    - 1. Gentiles estranged from the promises..... 2:11-12
    - 2. Gentiles brought near by the blood of Christ..... 2:13-18
    - 3. Gentiles fellow citizens of God’s household ..... 2:19-22
    - 4. Paul reveals the mystery of the Gentiles in the church..... 3:1-13
  - H. Prayer for spiritual strength and knowledge ..... 3:14-21
- III. The Practice of Salvation – The Worthy Walk..... 4:1-6:20
  - A. Walk in Unity..... 4:1-16
  - B. Walk in Holiness, as a new man ..... 4:17-32
  - C. Walk in Love..... 5:1-7
  - D. Walk in Light ..... 5:8-14
  - E. Walk in Wisdom..... 5:15-21
  - F. Household Holiness ..... 5:22-6:9
    - 1. Husbands and wives..... 5:22-33
    - 2. Parents and children..... 6:1-4
    - 3. Slaves and masters ..... 6:5-9
  - G. Standing strong as Christians in the battle of life ..... 6:10-20
    - 1. The following attributes help us stand against the Devil.. 6:10-13
    - 2. The attributes ..... 6:14-20
- IV. Closing ..... 6:21-24

## Notes

1. Paul has received a great revelation about the body of Christ as a union of Gentiles and Jews. Because of this, his imprisonment for Christ is not something that the Ephesians should lose heart about, because He is imprisoned for preaching that message that is such a benefit to them.
2. The pieces of armor in chapter 6 represent the virtues that are the “material” of the various pieces of armor. For example, the breastplate of righteousness *is* righteousness. The belt of truth *is* truth. The list of attributes is as follows: truth, righteousness, the gospel, faith, salvation, the word of God, and prayer.

## Outline of Philippians

The letter to the Philippians is another of Paul's prison epistles.

### Outline

- I. Greeting..... 1:1-2
- II. Initial Prayer and Report..... 1:3-26
  - A. Thanksgiving for their partnership and God's work in them..... 1:3-8
  - B. Intercession for their spiritual growth ..... 1:9-11
  - C. Paul's present circumstances..... 1:12-26
    - 1. Despite imprisonment, the gospel is advancing..... 1:12-18
    - 2. Paul hopes to be released and live on for Christ..... 1:19-26
- III. Admonitions..... 1:27-2:18
  - A. Remain united despite persecution ..... 1:27-30
  - B. Be like-minded with humility toward one another..... 2:1-4
  - C. Follow the example of Christ's humility..... 2:5-11
  - D. Pursue sanctification ..... 2:12-13
  - E. Shine as lights in the world ..... 2:14-16
  - F. Rejoice with Paul as his imprisonment is like a drink offering .... 2:17-18
- IV. Movement of Gospel Ministers ..... 2:19-30
  - A. The plan is soon to send like-minded Timothy..... 2:19-23
  - B. Paul hopes to come himself..... 2:24
  - C. Presently, Epaphroditus is coming back to Philippi..... 2:25-30
- V. Warnings..... 3:1-4:1
  - A. Beware of the circumcision faction ..... 3:1-11
    - 1. Warning about the Judaizer party ..... 3:1-2
    - 2. The true circumcision is that of the heart, not flesh..... 3:3
    - 3. Paul previously had grounds for confidence in the flesh..... 3:4-6
    - 4. Paul abandoned all of that for Christ ..... 3:7-11
    - 5. Exhortation to continue to pursue Christ-likeness ..... 3:12-16
  - B. Beware of those focused on worldly things ..... 3:17-21
    - 1. Follow good examples ..... 3:17
    - 2. Many are enemies of the cross..... 3:18-19
    - 3. Christian's citizenship is in heaven..... 3:20-21
  - C. Stand fast in the Lord (don't be deceived by the above)..... 4:1
- VI. More Admonitions ..... 4:2-9
  - A. Be like-minded instead of disputing ..... 4:2-3
  - B. Have joy, gentleness, and the peace of God..... 4:4-9
- VII. Closing ..... 4:10-23
  - A. Thanksgiving for their financial support..... 4:10-18

B. Trust that the Lord will supply their needs ..... 4:19-20  
C. Final greetings ..... 4:21-23

## Notes

1. Many have tagged it with the theme word “joy” but there is a lot more to it than that.
2. Paul begins and ends by offering thanks for the Philippians’ partnership in the gospel. By this, he means more than their coming to faith; they have taken up the calling of the Great Commission and are partnering with Paul financially in the work that he is doing.
3. Paul also offers a number of exhortations for them to grow in grace.

## Outline of Colossians

This is yet another of the prison epistles. It is a powerful letter on the sufficiency and pre-eminence of Christ.

### Outline

- I. Introduction..... 1:1-14
  - A. Greeting..... 1:1-2
  - B. Prayer of thanks for gospel fruit in Colosse..... 1:3-8
  - C. Intercession for the Colossians sanctification ..... 1:9-14
  
- II. The Doctrine of Christ and the Gospel ..... 1:15-2:23
  - A. The deity and preeminence of Christ ..... 1:15-20
  - B. The reconciliation provided by Christ..... 1:21-23
  - C. Paul is a minister of the church for the mystery of the Gentiles .. 1:24-27
  - D. Gospel ministry strives to bring people to maturity..... 1:28-2:7
  - E. Warning about worldly philosophy ..... 2:8-10
  - F. Salvation is entirely through the work of Jesus Christ ..... 2:11-15
  - G. Legalism and asceticism are false gospels with no power..... 2:16-23
  
- III. Living the Gospel..... 3:1-4:6
  - A. Have a Christ-centered mindset ..... 3:1-4
  - B. Put off the flesh and its deeds..... 3:5-9
  - C. Put on the good works of the new man ..... 3:10-17
  - D. Christian conduct in the household..... 3:18-4:1
    - 1. Husbands and wives..... 3:18-20
    - 2. Fathers..... 3:21
    - 3. Bondservants..... 3:22-25
    - 4. Masters..... 4:1
  - E. Continue in prayer ..... 4:2-4
  - F. Wise living and gracious speech..... 4:5-6
  
- IV. Closing ..... 4:7-18
  - A. Tychicus and Onesimus will relay news..... 4:7-9
  - B. Greetings from various ones ..... 4:10-15
  - C. Exhortation to read Paul's letters ..... 4:16
  - D. Exhortation to Archippus to fulfill the ministry..... 4:17
  - E. Signature..... 4:18

### Notes

1. It is crucial to note the doctrine of perseverance in faith. It is clearly taught in 1:23.
2. Paul's ministry entails suffering for Christ. That suffering serves to advance the gospel (1:24).

## Outline of 1 Thessalonians

1 Thessalonians is likely Paul's earliest inspired letter. The book of James may be earlier chronologically. It is written to a church facing some persecution but that is living well for the Lord. Paul cannot get back to see them as he wishes, so he encourages them from afar. In each chapter he reminds them of the second coming of Christ.

Important background that helps us understand the book is found in Acts 17:1-10.

### Outline

I. Introduction.....	1:1-4
A. Greeting.....	1:1
B. Prayer of thanksgiving .....	1:2-4
II. Past Ministry .....	1:5-2:16
A. Thessalonian response to the gospel .....	1:5-10
B. Paul's method of ministry .....	2:1-12
C. Reception of the Word even in tribulation .....	2:13-16
III. Future Ministry .....	2:17-3:13
A. Paul's desire to minister again to the Thessalonians.....	2:17-20
B. Purpose of further ministry: encourage in tribulation .....	3:1-5
C. Timothy reports that Thessalonians are doing well .....	3:6-8
D. Prayer of thanks, guidance, and for sanctification .....	3:9-13
IV. Present Ministry: Various Instructions .....	4:1-5:24
A. The more sanctified walk.....	4:1-4:12
B. The rapture: comfort in the face of death.....	4:13-18
C. Timing of the Day of the Lord and call to watchfulness.....	5:1-11
D. Miscellaneous instructions.....	5:12-22
V. Conclusion .....	5:23-28
A. Prayer for their sanctification.....	5:23-24
B. Request for prayer .....	5:25
C. Passing greetings .....	5:26
D. Charge to read the letter to the church .....	5:27
E. Closing.....	5:28

### Notes

1. The coming of the Lord is mentioned in 1:10, 2:19, 3:13, 4:13-18, 5:2, 5:23.
2. The coming of the Lord is in a couple of stages or parts. The first is the rapture, explained in 4:13-18 with its blessing of resurrection for the Christian (see also 1 Cor. 15:51-55). The second part includes sudden destruction when the Lord Jesus returns to overturn the kingdoms of the world and take the rule of the earth to Himself.

## Outline of 2 Thessalonians

Written shortly after 1 Thessalonians, maybe within a few months, this letter helps the believers deal with their current trials and explains that they are not in danger of missing the Day of Christ as one or more false teachers had told them by way of letter.

### Outline

I. Introduction.....	1:1-3
A. Greeting.....	1:1-2
B. Prayer of thanksgiving .....	1:3
II. Encouragement in Persecution.....	1:4-1:12
A. Presently they suffer.....	1:4-5
B. In the future, oppressors will be punished.....	1:6-9
C. Believers will behold the glory of Christ .....	1:10
D. Paul prays Christ will be glorified in the believers .....	1:11-12
III. Correction of a False Prophecy.....	2:1-17
A. Thessalonians troubled by a false letter .....	2:1-2
B. True timeline includes first a falling away and Antichrist .....	2:3-4
C. Restrainer, lawless one, deception .....	2:5-12
D. Prayer of thanks, assurance, and comfort .....	2:13-17
IV. Prayers and Instruction .....	3:1-15
A. Paul's prayer request.....	3:1-2
B. Confidence that God will protect and guide the Thessalonians .....	3:3-5
C. Correcting those who are idle.....	3:6-12
D. Correcting those who disobey the Word of God.....	3:13-15
VI. Closing .....	3:16-18
A. Prayer for peace .....	3:16
B. Salutation and closing greeting .....	3:17-18

### Notes

1. Outlining Paul's letters sometimes is difficult because he has such long sentences. It does not seem proper to break a sentence across major divisions of an outline (I, II), but other times a case can be made for doing just that. In the introduction, 1:3 could be well treated as its own sentence because of the content; that is what most modern English translations do.
2. The letter presents an interpretational difficulty at 2:6 regarding the restrainer. We understand this to be an indirect reference to the Holy Spirit who will loosen His hand of restraint upon sin in the world in order to allow the Antichrist to rise to prominence.



## Outline of 1 Timothy

For the better part of two decades Timothy was a student and co-worker of the apostle Paul. He is the recipient of two letters from the apostle, instructing him how to conduct his personal life and pastoral ministry.

### Outline

- I. Introduction..... 1:1-2
  - A. Author ..... 1:1
  - B. Recipient.....2a
  - C. Greeting.....2b
  
- II. Urgent need to teach sound doctrine in Ephesus ..... 1:3-20
  - A. Command to straighten out belief in the church ..... 1:3-11
  - B. Paul is grateful that he has been given such a ministry..... 1:12-17
  - C. Timothy is to engage the battle of sound doctrine ..... 1:18-20
  
- III. Instruction for the Operation of the Church..... 2:1-3:16
  - A. Concerning prayer..... 2:1-8
  - B. Concerning the manner of women in the church ..... 2:9-15
  - C. Concerning elders/pastors/bishops..... 3:1-7
  - D. Concerning deacons ..... 3:8-13
  - E. Summary concerning why Paul was writing this section..... 3:14-16
  
- IV. Instructions for Timothy as a Pastor ..... 4:1-5:25
  - A. Teaching the church sound doctrine to combat the false ..... 4:1-11
  - B. Watching his own life and ministry ..... 4:12-16
  - C. Ministering to various categories of church members ..... 5:1-25
    - 1. Older and younger men..... 5:1
    - 2. Older and younger women..... 5:2
    - 3. Widows ..... 5:3-16
    - 4. Elders ..... 5:17-20
    - 5. Minister to these ones without prejudice or hastiness ..... 5:21-22
  - D. Caring for his physical body ..... 5:23
  - E. Future judgment will reveal good and bad..... 5:24-25
  
- V. Teaching to Various People in the Church ..... 6:1-19
  - A. Servants ..... 6:1-2
  - B. Those who dispute and are greedy ..... 6:3-10
  - C. The pastor: pursue righteousness. .... 6:11-14
  - D. Doxology..... 6:15-16
  - E. Those who are rich ..... 6:17-19
  
- VI. Closing appeal and greeting..... 6:20-21

## Notes

1. The text in 5:24-25 needs to be carefully examined to understand not only what it means, but why Paul placed it in this context.

## Outline of 2 Timothy

This is the last of Paul's letters, written shortly before his death at the hands of the Romans.

### Outline

I. Introduction.....	1:1-5
A. Greeting.....	1:1-2
B. Prayer of thanks for Timothy and his faith .....	1:3-5
II. Admonitions for Timothy in His Life and Ministry .....	1:6-4:5
A. Stir up your gift, don't be ashamed, share in suffering .....	1:6-18
1. The commands .....	1:6-8
2. The gospel and its ministry .....	1:9-11
3. Example of Paul not being ashamed.....	1:12-14
4. Example of Onesiphorus not being ashamed.....	1:15-18
B. Be strong in grace and pass on sound teaching.....	2:1-26
1. Endure and focus like a good soldier.....	2:3-4
2. Follow the rules like a winning athlete.....	2:5
3. Work hard like a farmer.....	2:6
4. Consider these examples.....	2:7
5. Suffer and endure like Paul.....	2:8-13
6. Remind your people of these things.....	2:14
7. Work diligently in Scripture .....	2:15
8. Shun false teaching and useless words .....	2:16-19
9. Be a pure vessel or God's use.....	2:20-22
10. Be a gentle and patient teacher .....	2:23-26
C. Be aware that the last days will bring peril .....	3:1-9
D. Carefully follow Paul's teaching from Scripture .....	3:10-17
E. Preach the Word whether convenient or not .....	4:1-4
F. Fulfill all aspects of your ministry.....	4:5
III. Paul's Circumstances .....	4:6-18
A. Paul's death is imminent but he is confident in the Lord .....	4:6-8
B. Paul has been abandoned by most of his friends.....	4:9-16
C. But the Lord did not abandon Paul.....	4:17-18
IV. Conclusion .....	4:19-22
A. Passing greetings.....	4:19-21
B. Closing .....	4:22

### Notes

1. Paul gives a number of exhortations to Timothy. There are six in 4:9-21 which have to do with Paul's present situation and his requests for Timothy's assistance. More generally applicable commands are found in 1:8-4:5, and there are 27 of them. Several are given in rapid fire fashion, as in 4:2 and 4:5 where there are a total of 9 out of the 27 imperatives.

## Outline of Titus

The book of Titus is a letter from the apostle Paul to a young pastor named Titus who is on the Island of Crete. In it, Paul gives instruction to Titus on a number of matters concerning his ministry on the island, particularly how he is to set in order the churches there. This includes the appointment of elders for the churches and instructions on how to teach the people in the churches. While an example specific to Crete is utilized (1:12-13), these words are profitable for the church throughout this age. It was written about 65 A.D.

### Outline

I. Introduction.....	1:1-4
II. Installation of Elders on Crete .....	1:5-16
A. Command to Install Elders.....	1:5
B. Qualifications of Elders .....	1:6-9
1. Family Qualifications.....	1:6
2. Personal Qualifications .....	1:7-8
3. Doctrinal Qualifications.....	1:9
C. The Need for Qualified Elders.....	1:10-16
1. Reason Why Such Elders are Needed.....	1:10-11
2. Support for the Need of Elders .....	1:12-16
III. Sound Teaching Required.....	2:1-15
A. Command to Teach Sound Doctrine.....	2:1
B. Content of the Teaching: To Specific Groups .....	2:2-10
1. To Older Men.....	2:1-2
2. To Older Women .....	2:3-4
3. To Younger Women .....	2:4-5
4. To Younger Men, Including Example of Titus.....	2:6-8
5. To Servants .....	2:9-10
C. Reason for the Teaching: Saving Grace.....	2:11-14
D. Reiteration of Command to Teach.....	2:15
IV. General Exhortations Required.....	3:1-11
A. Content of the Exhortations: To General Audience.....	3:1-2
1. Subjection/Obedience to Authority.....	3:1
2. Personal Attitude toward All Men .....	3:2
B. Reason for Exercising Humility: Salvation by Grace.....	3:3-7
C. Teaching on Profitable/Unprofitable .....	3:8-9
1. Profitability of Good Works .....	3:8
2. Uselessness of Foolish Arguments .....	3:9
D. Separation from Schismatics.....	3:10-11
V. Final Instructions and Closing .....	3:12-15
A. Meeting with Paul .....	3:12
B. Hospitality and Ministry to Zenas and Apollos .....	3:13

C.	Closing Exhortation to Good Works.....	3:14
D.	Closing Greetings.....	3:15

## Notes

1. Notice key commands in the body of the letter: set in order (1:5), appoint (1:5), rebuke (1:13), speak (2:1), exhort (2:6), speak/exhort/rebuke (2:15), remind (3:1), affirm (3:8), avoid (3:9), reject (3:10).
2. Notice key explanations based on the explanatory *gar* (γάρ): 1:7, 1:10, 2:11, 3:3, 3:9, 3:12. These are the only six verses that use *gar* in the letter.
3. The instructions given directly to Titus in especially chapters 2 and 3 will undoubtedly be passed from Titus to the other elders (see 2 Tim. 2:2).
4. 2:15 is paired with 2:1.
5. Note the emphasis on works and good works: 1:16, 2:7, 2:14, 3:1, 3:5, 3:8, 3:14.
6. The need for qualified elders (1:10-16) seems to be, on initial inspection, mainly concerned with the doctrinal qualification given in verse 9. However, the false teacher types of verse 10-11 have not only doctrinal deviations, but also character flaws such as deceit and dishonesty that are mentioned in the family and personal qualifications earlier in 1:6-8. So the explanatory “For there are many insubordinate...” is meant to explain the need for all of the qualifications, not just the doctrinal one.

## Outline of Philemon

This is the most personal of Paul’s letters, written to an individual about a very touchy subject—a runaway slave who was also a thief. It is also the shortest of Paul’s letters.

### Outline

- I. Introduction..... 1:1-7
  - A. Greeting..... 1:1-3
  - B. Thanksgiving prayers offered for Philemon..... 1:4-7
  
- II. Request forgiveness for Onesimus..... 1:8-21
  - A. Initial appeal for the formerly unprofitable servant ..... 1:8-11
  - B. Please receive him as a brother (with forgiveness) ..... 1:12-16
  - C. Impute my good to him, and his wrong to me ..... 1:17-20
  - D. Paul is confident Philemon will forgive..... 1:21
  
- III. Closing Matters ..... 1:22-25
  - A. Request for a guest room to be ready..... 1:22
  - B. Sharing greetings..... 1:23-24
  - C. Salutation..... 1:25

### Notes

1. The entire book is a wonderful illustration of the salvation doctrine of imputation. Paul asked Philemon to impute the sin of Onesimus to his own account. At the same time, he asked Philemon to consider Onesimus as he would consider Paul, thus imputing Paul’s merit to Onesimus. In a similar way, our sin was imputed to Christ and Christ’s righteousness was imputed to us.
2. Although the word “forgive” does not occur in the letter, a major theme of the letter is that Philemon should forgive this runaway slave who had wronged him. Forgiveness is clearly implied in the appeal to “receive” Onesimus (1:12). You cannot “receive” someone and be reconciled to them if there is a refusal to forgive.

## Outline of Hebrews

The authorship of Hebrews is debated. Some believe, as I do, that it is the apostle Paul. Others suggest Apollos or Luke as the human author. It is evident that the letter is inspired and belongs in the canon of Scripture in any case, because we are confident that the Holy Spirit is the ultimate Author.

The book is one of the most difficult in the New Testament to grasp. Its use of language and ideas is very sophisticated. But the believer in Christ can comprehend it with sanctified effort. The outline below will help the reader to grasp the bigger picture of this letter.

The letter itself has the ring of a sermon transcript. Note also the masterful use of the Old Testament, showing that the human author had a firm grasp of God's older revelation.

### Outline

- I. The Superiority of Jesus Christ the Son of God ..... 1:1-10:18
  - A. Revelation of God in His Son ..... 1:1-3
  - B. Jesus is superior to the angels ..... 1:4-2:18
    - 1. Jesus is exalted above angels, who are ministering spirits . 1:4-14
    - 2. **Warning #1:** Give heed to what we have heard..... 2:1-4
    - 3. Jesus temporarily lower than angels, suffered for humans . 2:5-18
  - C. Jesus is superior to Moses ..... 3:1-4:13
    - 1. Jesus worthy of more glory than Moses ..... 3:1-6
    - 2. **Warning #2:** Do not harden your heart in unbelief..... 3:7-15
    - 3. The promise of rest is obtained by faith..... 3:16-4:13
  - D. Jesus is our Great High Priest in the order of Melchizedek..... 4:14-5:10
    - 1. Hold fast to our confession ..... 4:14-16
    - 2. High priests are appointed from men, for people ..... 5:1-4
    - 3. Christ was also appointed as High Priest..... 5:5-10
  - E. Exhortation: Advance in the Christian faith..... 5:11-6:20
    - 1. Rebuke: you should be teachers by now ..... 5:11-14
    - 2. Move beyond the elementary principles ..... 6:1-4
    - 3. **Warning #3:** Impossibility of renewing the fallen..... 6:5-8
    - 4. Confidence about the readers' salvation ..... 6:9-10
    - 5. Exhortation to persevere in the faith ..... 6:11-12
    - 6. Christians have a completely certain hope..... 6:13-20
  - F. Jesus has a better priesthood in the order of Melchizedek ..... 7:1-28
    - 1. History of Melchizedek..... 7:1-10
    - 2. Levitical priesthood is insufficient and needs replaced .... 7:11-13
    - 3. Jesus replaces the old priesthood with a better one ..... 7:14-19
    - 4. Jesus made priest by the oath of God..... 7:20-22
    - 5. Jesus has an unchangeable priesthood ..... 7:23-25
    - 6. Jesus has no weakness of sin to overcome..... 7:26-28
  - G. Jesus is mediator of a better covenant..... 8:1-13
  - H. Jesus serves the greater heavenly sanctuary, not the earthly one... 9:1-11
  - I. Jesus offered a better sacrifice: His own life and blood ..... 9:12-10:18

II. Persevere with Full Assurance.....	10:19-13:17
A. Press on in the Christian faith .....	10:19-39
1. Draw near and hold fast your profession of faith .....	10:19-25
2. <b>Warning #4:</b> Do not reject the Son of God.....	10:26-31
3. Reflect on your earlier confidence in Christ.....	10:32-34
4. Do not draw back, but continue to believe .....	10:35-39
B. Definition and examples of true faith.....	11:1-40
1. Definition of faith .....	11:1-2
2. Faith regarding the creation of the world.....	11:3
3. Abel.....	11:4
4. Enoch .....	11:5-6
5. Noah.....	11:7
6. Abraham.....	11:8-10
7. Sarah .....	11:11-12
8. These died in faith, awaiting a heavenly destiny .....	11:13-16
9. Abraham and the offering of Isaac.....	11:17-19
10. Isaac .....	11:20
11. Jacob .....	11:21
12. Joseph.....	11:22
13. Moses' parents .....	11:23
14. Moses, multiple examples.....	11:24-29
15. The Israelites during the early conquest .....	11:30
16. Rahab .....	11:31
17. Multiple other examples .....	11:32-38
18. We join them in awaiting God's promises.....	11:39-40
C. Exhortation to persevere in faith and good works.....	12:1-13:17
1. Exhortation to lay aside sin and run with endurance .....	12:1-2
2. Example of Christ enduring to the point of blood .....	12:3-4
3. Endure through chastisement.....	12:5-11
4. Be strong .....	12:12-13
5. Pursue peace and holiness.....	12:14-17
6. Why? Because you are part of God's holy city .....	12:18-24
7. <b>Warning #5:</b> Do not refuse God .....	12:25-29
8. Various exhortations about Christian conduct.....	13:1-17
III. Conclusion .....	13:18-25
A. Prayer request.....	13:18-19
B. Benediction.....	13:20-21
C. Appeal to hear the exhortation of the book .....	13:22
D. Report about Timothy .....	13:23
E. Final greetings and salutation.....	13:24-25



## Notes

1. Note the warning passages sprinkled throughout the book. They are set in boldface type in the outline above so that they are easy to locate.
2. The author gives an exposition with application of many Old Testament passages.
3. 5:6 and 10 introduce the idea that Christ is a priest in the order of Melchizedek. But that idea is not developed until 7:1.
4. In terms of the art of preaching, notice that the author has woven together the elements of teaching, illustration, exhortation, warning, and argumentation to convey his point.
5. The theme of “better” pervades the book. But it is also worth noting that Jesus is not only *better* than the angels and Moses and the Levitical priesthood; He is also *final*: the final revelation of God, the final priest, the final sacrifice. And, He is also *only*: the only way of salvation.
6. The word *therefore* occurs 28 times in the NKJV translation. Such connectors are key to ponder in order to understand the big picture of the book of Hebrews.

## Outline of James

James is the “Proverbs of the New Testament.” It is a letter about wise Christian practice. It has often been outlined as a series of tests as to whether one has a living faith or not. This theme comes to especially sharp focus in 2:14-26.

### Outline

I. Introduction.....	1:1
II. Test #1: A Living Faith and Trials.....	1:2-18
A. The good work of trials.....	1:2-4
B. Request wisdom by faith to handle trials.....	1:5-8
C. Trials come to rich and poor alike.....	1:9-11
D. Blessing for enduring trials.....	1:12
E. Trials come from God, but not temptations.....	1:13-15
F. God gives good gifts, particularly the new birth.....	1:16-18
III. Test #2: A Living Faith and Scripture.....	1:19-27
A. The responsibility to hear God’s Word.....	1:19-21
B. Doing, not <i>just</i> hearing, the Word of God.....	1:22-25
C. Examples of truth faith.....	1:26-27
IV. Test #3: A Living Faith and Partiality.....	2:1-13
A. Partiality forbidden.....	2:1
B. Example of partiality.....	2:2-4
C. Reasons for the prohibition of partiality.....	2:5-13
1. God’s concern for the poor.....	2:5-7
2. The law of Christ, aka the law of liberty.....	2:8-13
V. Test #4: A Living Faith and Good Works.....	2:14-26
A. A living faith produces good works.....	2:14-20
B. Examples of living faith.....	2:21-26
VI. Test #5: A Living Faith and the Tongue.....	3:1-18
A. The challenge of the tongue.....	3:1-12
B. Godly wisdom produces righteous conduct.....	3:13-18
VII. Test #6: A Living Faith and Pride and Humility.....	4:1-12
A Friendship with the world.....	4:1-5
B Humbly submit to God.....	4:6-12
VIII. Test #7: A Living Faith and the Will of God.....	4:13-17
A. Ignoring the will of God.....	4:13
B. Taking Gods’ will into account.....	4:14-17
IX. An Admonition for Wicked Rich People.....	5:1-6

A. The Warning .....	5:1
B. Reasons for judgment.....	5:2-6
X. Test #8: A Living Faith and Patience .....	5:7-12
A. Handling trials with patience .....	5:7-8
B. Application and illustration.....	5:9-12
XI. Test #9: A Living Faith and Prayer.....	5:13-18
A. Prayer and affliction.....	5:13a
B. Prayer through praise .....	5:13b
C. Prayer and sickness .....	5:14-16
D. Illustration of Elijah .....	5:17-18
E. Help the erring brother .....	5:19-20

## Notes

1. Note that James' admonition of the rich does not refer to righteous people who happen also to be rich. Riches do not automatically qualify someone as evil.

## Outline of 1 Peter

1 Peter 5:12 provides something of a theme around which we can organize our thoughts on Peter's first letter. He says that he has written that "this is the true grace of God" in which you stand.

### Outline

- I. Greeting..... 1:1-2
  
- II. The Grace of God in Salvation ..... 1:3-2:10
  - A. Saved and preserved for an eternal inheritance ..... 1:3-5
  - B. Faith tested by trials will end with the salvation of our souls ..... 1:6-9
  - C. Prophets and angels curious about our salvation ..... 1:10-12
  - D. Holy conduct required in light of Christ's coming ..... 1:13-21
  - E. Love one another because you have been born again ..... 1:22-25
  - F. Cultivate a thirst for God's Word ..... 2:1-3
  - G. Christians are a special people of God for the praise of Christ..... 2:4-10
  
- III. The Grace of God in Submission..... 2:11-3:7
  - A. Submission toward those outside the church ..... 2:11-17
  - B. Submission of servants to masters ..... 2:18-20
  - C. Christ as the model of submission..... 2:21-25
  - D. Submission of wives to husbands and husbands loving wives ..... 3:1-7
  
- IV. The Grace of God in Suffering ..... 3:8-5:11
  - A. Righteous Christian conduct ..... 3:8-12
  - B. Suffer for doing good, not evil ..... 3:13-4:6
    - 1. Suffering for good..... 3:13-17
    - 2. Christ the highest example of such suffering..... 3:18-22
    - 3. Suffering is connected to cessation of sin..... 4:1-6
  - C. The coming of Christ is at hand ..... 4:7-19
    - 1. It demands sober conduct..... 4:7-11
    - 2. It permits persecution to be received gladly ..... 4:12-19
  - D. Elders must be upright in their leadership ..... 5:1-4
  - E. Humble conduct..... 5:5-7
  - F. Responding to the threats of the Devil ..... 5:8-9
  - G. Prayer for strength for the believers in the face of suffering ..... 5:10-11
  
- III. Closing ..... 5:12-14

### Notes

1. The book of 1 Peter is not highly structured. But there are several subjects that seem to dominate: the doctrines of salvation, submission, and suffering. These appear prominently in the major headings of the outline.

## Outline of 2 Peter

Much of 2 Peter is concerned with the coming danger of false teachers. But Peter also emphasizes the need to remember the words of the apostles and prophets. He wrote this reminder because his time of departure was near (1:12, 3:1).

### Outline

- I. Introduction..... 1:1-2
  - A. Author and readers ..... 1:1
  - B. Greeting..... 1:2
  
- II. Reminder about Christian Growth ..... 1:3-21
  - A. Exhortation to grow ..... 1:3-11
    - 1. Resources for growth ..... 1:3-4
    - 2. The first exhortation, to grow ..... 1:5-9
    - 3. The second exhortation, to be diligent..... 1:10-11
  - B. Three reasons for Peter’s exhortation ..... 1:12-21
    - 1. Peter’s death is imminent..... 1:12-15
    - 2. Peter’s own eyewitness testimony ..... 1:16-18
    - 3. The sure testimony of Scripture ..... 1:19-21
  
- III. Warning About False Teachers..... 2:1-22
  - A. The warning itself ..... 2:1-3
  - B. God judges and delivers ..... 2:4-9
    - 1. God judged and delivered in the Old Testament ..... 2:4-8
    - 2. God will judge and deliver in the future ..... 2:9
  - C. Description of false teachers ..... 2:10-22
    - 1. Their Character ..... 2:10-16
    - 2. Their Influence..... 2:17-22
  
- IV. Reminder about Coming Judgment ..... 3:1-18a
  - A. Purpose of Peter’s letter ..... 3:1-2
  - B. False teachers deny coming judgment ..... 3:3-10
    - 1. The denial itself..... 3:3-4
    - 2. The initial refutation: uniformitarianism is ignorant ..... 3:5-7
    - 3. Refutation continued: The DOL is coming for sure ..... 3:8-10
  - D. Therefore: exhortations considering the future..... 3:11-18a
    - 1. Exhortation to holiness ..... 3:11-14
    - 2. Exhortation to consider the delay properly..... 3:15-16
    - 3. Exhortation to perseverance and growth..... 3:17-19
  
- V. Concluding Doxology..... 3:18b

### Notes

1. The theme of “reminding” the readers is found in 1:12, 1:13, 1:15 and 3:1.

## Outline of 1 John

1 John is like James in that it presents evidences or tests of true faith. As in his gospel at 20:31, John clearly writes his purpose statement in a single verse in this letter at 5:13.

### Outline

I. Introduction.....	1:1-4
II. Evidences of Eternal Life.....	1:5-5:13
A. Walking in the light: a new relationship to sin .....	1:5-2:2
B. Keeping God’s commands .....	2:3-6
C. Loving God and loving others, not the world .....	2:7-17
D. Believing the doctrine of Christ .....	2:18-28
E. Practicing righteousness .....	2:29-3:10a
F. Loving our brothers .....	3:10b-24
G. Discerning false doctrine .....	4:1-6
H. Loving God and loving others .....	4:7-21
I. Believing that Jesus is the Christ, Son of God .....	5:1-12
III. Epilogue .....	5:13-21
A. Purpose statement of John’s letter .....	5:13
B. Assurance in prayer .....	5:14-15
C. Praying about a sinning brother .....	5:16-17
D. The believer is preserved from sin and the Devil .....	5:18-20
E. Exhortation to stay away from idols.....	5:21

### Notes

1. A crucial interpretive issue is this: does “fellowship” in 1:3 refer to eternal life (the view taken by this author) or does it refer to “a relationship on good terms between God and the believer”? In the latter case, a person can be saved but not have fellowship with God. In the view I take, a believer who is not “in fellowship” with God is not saved. This view best makes sense of all of the evidences of eternal life. Otherwise, you can have people “saved” but “out of fellowship” who are liars and not speaking the truth about their sin, or who don’t love their brothers, etc. It is not at all John’s intent to give such people false assurance of salvation.
2. The outline of 1 John is not rigidly structured. In fact, some have suggested that John spirals around the topics of which he speaks, revisiting and going into more detail as he spirals.
3. The evidences or tests can be divided into two classes: moral evidence and doctrinal evidence. For example, a moral evidence would be whether you love your fellow believers. A doctrinal evidence would be whether you believe that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah).
4. An important aspect of the Christian instruction to love is that love originates with God, because God is love. We love because God loved us first. The test or evidence of loving others will not be in our life unless we have God’s love operative in us.

## Outline of 2 John

2 John is among a small set of New Testament letters that are extremely personal in nature. The others are Philemon and 3 John. Despite its personal touch, the letter presents important truths such as walking in truth, loving one another, and not promoting false doctrine.

### Outline

- I. Introduction..... 1:1-3
  - A. Author and recipients ..... 1:1-2
  - B. Greeting..... 1:3
  
- II. Body of the Letter ..... 1:4-11
  - A. John rejoices that the lady’s children are walking in truth ..... 1:4
  - B. John pleads that we love one another and obey God’s commands .. 1:5-6
  - C. John warns about deceivers who deny the doctrine of Christ ..... 1:7-11
  
- III. Closing ..... 1:12-13
  - A. John hopes to see her face to face ..... 1:12
  - B. Greetings sent from the lady’s believing sister ..... 1:13

### Notes

1. The recipient is a woman known to the apostle John. She has some children that are known to John as well. The “lady” is not a coded reference to a church.
2. Hospitality was (and still is) an important Christian virtue. However, offering hospitality to heretics is not virtuous—thus John’s warning in 1:7-11. Doing so results in a reduced reward from Christ.
3. Those who deny the doctrine of Christ simply do not “have” God. They are not fellow Christians worthy of support as “missionaries.”

## Outline of 3 John

This is another of the very personal letters in the New Testament. John is writing to a Christian friend named Gaius. There is a serious problem in the church where Gaius attends.

### Outline

- I. Introduction..... 1:1-3
  - A. Author and recipients ..... 1:1
  - B. Greeting..... 1:2
  - C. Expression of joy at Gaius walking in truth..... 1:3-4
- II. Gaius, a Faithful Helper to the Truth ..... 1:5-8
- III. Diotrephes, a Tare in the Church ..... 1:9-10
  - A. He loves the pre-eminence ..... 1:9
  - B. He does not receive brothers with hospitality ..... 1:10
- IV. Demetrius, a Man with a Good Testimony ..... 1:11-12
  - A. Command to imitate what is good ..... 1:11
  - B. A good example to imitate, Demetrius..... 1:12
- V. Closing ..... 1:13-14
  - A. John hopes to see Gaius face to face..... 1:13-14a
  - B. Greetings ..... 1:14b

### Notes

1. John touches once again on the important topic of Christian hospitality.
2. There are three examples of men in a church, two good ones to imitate and a bad one to avoid.



## Outline of Jude

Jude is very likely the half-brother of Jesus. He was pressed to write a letter to the church at large because people were beginning to creep into the church, bringing licentious doctrine and practice with them.

### Outline

I. Introduction.....	1-4
A. Writer and recipients .....	1
B. Greeting.....	2
C. Jude’s purpose is to contend for the faith.....	3
D. Occasion is dangerous ungodly men.....	4
II. Condemnation of the Ungodly.....	5-16
A. God’s judgment on the ungodly in the past .....	5-7
1. Unbelievers in the Exodus .....	5
2. Fallen angels .....	6
3. Sodom and Gomorrah.....	7
B. The Character of the ungodly in the present .....	8-13
1. Immoral, rebellious, and arrogant.....	8-10
2. Similar to three OT examples: Cain, Balaam, Korah .....	11
3. Morally bankrupt .....	12-13
C. Confirmation of judgment on the ungodly.....	14-16
1. The prophecy of Enoch.....	14-15
2. Re-confirming their condemnable conduct.....	16
III. Call to Contend for the Faith .....	17-23
A. Remember apostolic teaching .....	17-19
B. Edify yourselves.....	20-21
C. Evangelize the lost .....	22-23
IV. Concluding Doxology.....	24-25

### Notes

1. Notice that in the introduction, the goal is to encourage the readers to contend for the faith, and the reason or need for that is because there are sneaky godless people who are trying to destroy the church. The outline of the book reverses that order, first exposing the ungodly men, and then calling upon the readers to contend for the faith.
2. The third major section (§III) is demarcated by the phrase “but you” in verse 17 and verse 20, which contrasts the readers from the ungodly and false teachers.

## Outline of Revelation

Chapter 1 verse 19 indicates the high-level outline of the book. It says that John is told to write about three things:

1. The things which you have seen, including chapter 1;
2. The things which are, including the letters to the seven churches in chapters 2 and 3;
3. And the things which will take place after this, including chapters 4 through 22.

## Outline

I. Letters to the Seven Churches.....	1:1-3:19
A. Introduction (the things that are seen).....	1:1-20
B. Ephesus (the things which are).....	2:1-7
C. Smyrna .....	2:8-11
D. Pergamos.....	2:12-17
E. Thyatira.....	2:18-29
F. Sardis .....	3:1-6
G. Philadelphia.....	3:7-13
H. Laodicea.....	3:14-19
II. Heavenly Worship of the Lamb of God (things future).....	4:1-5:14
III. The Seven-Year Tribulation .....	6:1-19:21
A. The Seven Seal Judgments.....	6:1-17
B. Interlude: Multitudes Saved in Tribulation .....	7:1-17
C. The Seven Trumpet Judgments .....	8:1-9:21
D. Interlude: The Angel and the Book.....	10:1-11
E. Interlude: Two Witnesses .....	11:1-14
F. Conclusion of the Trumpet Judgments.....	11:15-19
G. Interlude: Important Characters .....	12:1-13:18
H. Interlude: Visions of 144,000; Angels; and Final Judgment .....	14:1-20
I. The Seven Bowl Judgments .....	15:1-16:21
J. Interlude: Babylon.....	17:1-19:5
K. The Second Coming of Christ Detailed .....	19:6-21
IV. The Millennial Kingdom and Final Judgment.....	20:1-15
V. The New Heaven and New Earth.....	21:1-22:21

## Notes

1. The timing of fulfillment of the prophecies in the book is hotly debated. I take a futurist view, that essentially all of chapters 4-22 are future to our present age. This fits the plain meaning of the figures and symbols. Clearly chapters 20-22 are future. The second coming of Christ in chapter 19 is future. The cataclysmic judgments in chapters 6-19 have no possible parallel in human history up to this point. So it is eminently reasonable to take almost the entire book as future to the present church age.

2. The blessing pronounced on the one who reads, hears, and keeps the words of the prophecy.
3. 2 Peter 3:11-12 gives us some motivation from another Bible passage as to why we should have at least a rudimentary idea of what is going to happen in the *future*. That which is coming in the future demands us to live holy lives *now*.
4. The interpretation of the series of seven letters.
5. The significance of the number seven.
6. In terms of the chronology of Revelation, several sections are parenthetical but the book's overall outline is sequential; the judgments are numbered and seem to be sequential with one series unfolding into the next one.
7. The general chronology of the book and thus of the future is helpful to us, but an absolute understanding of every detail of chronology is not necessary, nor probably realistically achievable for most of us. Some revelation was not given to us—Rev. 10:4, for instance—and so we do not have all information that could be relevant to the whole end-times. That is not to say we are missing things that we need.
8. Signs are signs, not to be taken literally.
9. Fads in interpretation, e.g. the Soviet Union in Revelation and Daniel.
10. The literality and length of the millennial kingdom.
11. The reality of “heaven and hell” are plainly taught.
12. Notice the phrases “Then I saw” (42 uses) and “Then I heard” as introductory to the various visions.