

OVERVIEW OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis

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

Exodus

1 Oppression in Egypt
2-4 Birth and call of Moses
7-11 The 10 plagues in Egypt
12-13 Exodus from Egypt (c. 1400 B.C.)
14-19 Journey to Mount Sinai
20 The 10 Commandments
21-31 Laws and regulations
32 The Golden Calf
33-34 Renewal of the covenant
35-40 The Tabernacle

Leviticus

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

Numbers

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

Deuteronomy

The farewell discourse of Moses, repeating the most important events from the 40 desert years.
1-4 Historical review and exhortations
5-11 Reminder about the covenant with the Lord
12-26 Various laws, warnings against leaving the Lord
27-30 Curses and blessings
31-34 Moses' final farewell

Joshua

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

Judges

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

Ruth

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

1 Samuel

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

2 Samuel

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

1 Kings

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

2 Kings

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

1 Chronicles

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

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

2 Chronicles

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

The EXILE in BABYLON 587-538 B.C.

Ezra

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

Nehemiah

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

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

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

Chapters 40-66: The Book of Comfort
Deliverance and Restoration.

The 4 songs about the Lord's suffering servant:
42:1-6, 49:1-6, 50:4-9, 52:13-53:12

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

1 The calling of Jeremiah
2-25 Warnings to Judah and Jerusalem
26-29+36-45 Sufferings of Jeremiah
30-35 Promises of restoration
46-51 Judgment against the nations
52 Fall of Jerusalem

Lamentations

Written around 587 B.C. when Jerusalem was destroyed and the people deported to Babylon.

Ezekiel (c. 593-571 B.C.)

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

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

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

12 «minor» prophets

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

THE PSALMS

Psalms of praise:

29 - 33 - 65 - 66 - 89A - 95A - 100 - 103
111 - 113 - 117 - 135 - 136 - 144 - 150

Psalms of creation:

8 - 19A - 104 - 139 - 148

Psalms of trust:

5 - 16 - 17 - 23 - 25 - 26 - 27 - 40 - 41 - 62
63 - 67 - 71 - 85 - 91 - 108 - 118 - 121

Psalms of thanksgiving:

Collective: 68 - 107 - 124 - 126

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

Psalms of wisdom and teaching:

1 - 19B - 34B - 37 - 39A - 49 - 50 - 52 - 53
58 - 73 - 75 - 81 - 82 - 90 - 101 - 112 - 115
119 - 127 - 133 - 139

Psalms of distress and prayer for deliverance:

Collective: 44 - 60 - 74 - 79 - 80 - 83 - 89B

Individual: 3 - 4 - 7 - 10 - 14 - 22 - 28 - 31A
35 - 36 - 39B - 42 - 43 - 54 - 55
56 - 57 - 59 - 61 - 64 - 69 - 70
77 - 86 - 88 - 94 - 102 - 109
140 - 142

Historical psalms:

78 - 105 - 106 - 114 - 137

Psalms of repentance:

6 - 32 - 38 - 51 - 130 - 143

Royal psalms:

2 - 18 - 20 - 21 - 45 - 72 - 110 - 132

Proclaiming God as king:

47 - 93 - 96 - 99

Psalms used in pilgrimages to Jerusalem:

15 - 24 - 120 - 134

Psalms of Zion (Jerusalem):

46 - 48 - 76 - 84 - 87 - 122

WHAT IS GOD LIKE? HE IS ...

Unchangeable Hebr 1:10-12
Full of grace Eph 2:4-10
Near the lowly Isa 57:15
Performs miracles Psalm 86:10
Lord of peace 2 Thess 3:16
God of all comfort 2 Cor 1:3-5

Creator Gen 1 - Psalm 33 - Col 1:15-17
The only God Isa 43:10-13 - 44:6-8 - 1 Cor 8:4-6 - Jude 25
Faithful Ex 34:6 - Deut 7:9 og 32:4 - 2 Thes 3:3 - 2 Tim 2:11ff
Full of love Psalms 86:5,15 - 103 - Micah 7:18f - 1 John 4:7-21
Our Father Isa 63:16 - Mat 6:6 - 7,11 - Gal 4:6f
Holy Psalm 99 - Isa 61:1-5 - 1 Pet 1:15f - Rev 15:3f
Eternal Deut 3:27 - Psalm 90 - Jer 10:10 - 1 Tim 1:17 - 2 Pet 3:8
Righteous Psalm 98 - 117 - 33:4f - John 17:25 - 2 Tim 4:8
Almighty 1 Chron 29:10-13 - Jer 32:17 - Mat 28:18 - Rev 1:8
Beyond comparison Psalm 139:1-18 - Isa 55:8-11 - Rom 11:33-36
Visible in Jesus John 14:8-11 - Col 1:15-20 - Hebr 1:1-3 - Isa 92-6
Full of care Psalm 23 - Mat 6:25-34 - 10:28-31 - 1 Pet 5:7
Judge of all Isa 33:22 - Mat 25:31-46 - Acts 17:31 - James 4:12
Friend of sinners Luke 15:10,21-24 - 19:10 - Mat 9:9-13 - 1 Tim 1:15
Triune Mat 3:16-17 - 28:19 - John 10:30 - Rom 8:9 - 1 Cor 12:4-6
2 Cor 13:14 - 1 Pet 1:2 - Gen 1:26

This overview shows only a very small part of what the Bible reveals about God.

WHERE DO I FIND ...?

Exod 20:1-17 The Ten Commandments
Num 6:24-26 The Priestly Blessing
Psalm 23 «The Lord is my shepherd»

Psalm 51 The Psalm of repentance
Isaiah 53 The Suffering Servant
Mat 5-7 The Sermon on the Mount

Mat 5:1-12 The Beatitudes
Mat 6:9-13 Our Lord's Prayer
Mat 7:12 The Golden Rule

Mat 28:18-20 The Great Commission
Mark 12:29-31 The Greatest Commandment

Luke 2:1-20 The Christmas Story

Luke 10:25-37 The Good Samaritan
Luke 15:11-32 The Lost (Prodigal) Son
John 3:16 The Bible is a nutshell
John 10:1-16 Jesus is the Good Shepherd
1 Cor 12-14 Spiritual Gifts
1 Cor 13 The Song of Love
1 Cor 15 The Resurrection Chapter

Gal 5:22-23 The Fruit of the Spirit
Eph 6:10-18 The full armour of God
Hebr 11 Heroes of Faith
Rev 21:1-8 A new heaven and a new earth

PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS

Prophecy Micah 5:1 Born in Bethlehem
Isaiah 9:6-7 Mighty and everlasting
Isaiah 7:14 Born of a virgin
Genesis 49:10 From the tribe of Judah
Jeremiah 31:15 Herod's child murders
Hosea 11:1 Escape to Egypt
Zechariah 9:9 Cleansing of the temple
Zech 11:12-13 Entry into Jerusalem
Isaiah 53:7 Thirty silver coins
Isaiah 53:7 Silent before accusers
Isaiah 53:8 Praying for enemies
Isaiah 53:9 Casting lots for clothing
Isaiah 53:9 In a rich man's tomb
Isaiah 53:4-12 Suffered and died for our sins

Fulfillment Matthew 2:1-6 - Luke 2:4
Luke 1:31-33
Matthew 1:18-23
Revelation 5:1
Matthew 2:16-18
Matthew 2:15
John 2:13-17
Matthew 21:1-11
Matthew 26:15 - 27:3-10
Matthew 26:62f - 27:12-14
Luke 23:34
Matthew 27:35
Matthew 27:57-60
Matthew 8:17 - Rom 4:25 - 1 Cor 15:3
2 Cor 5:21 - 1 Pet 2:22-24 - 3:18

OTHER PROPHECIES (see cross-references in the Bible for each verse):

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

WHO IS JESUS?

John 10:11 The Good Shepherd
2 Cor 4:4 The Image of God
John 1:29 Lamb of God
John 14:6 The Way
Isa 9:6 Prince of Peace
John 1:1-14 The Word
1 Cor 10:4 Rock
1 Cor 2:8 Lord of Glory
Isa 9:6 Mighty God
Acts 3:14 The Holy One
Acts 3:14 The Righteous One
Rom 11:26 Deliverer
Luke 1:32 Son of the Most High
Col 3:4 Our Life
Job 19:25 Redeemer
Acts 3:15 Author of Life

Rev 22:13 Alpha and Omega
John 14:6 The Life
John 8:12 Light of the World
John 6:35 Bread of Life
John 14:6 The Truth
Isa 9:6 Wonderful Counsellor
Rev 5:5 Lion of Judah
Rev 1:8 The Living One
1 Tim 2:5 Mediator
1 John 5:20 True God
John 1:49 King of Israel
2 Pet 2:20 Lord and Saviour
Eph 2:20 The Cornerstone
1 John 1:1 Word of Life
Heb 12:2 Author and Perfecter of our faith

WELL-KNOWN PARABLES OF JESUS

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

Luke 7:41-43 Money-lender
12:5-37 Good Samaritan
12:16-21 Rich fool
14:15-24 Great banquet
14:28-33 Cost of discipleship
15:1-7 Lost sheep
15:8-10 Lost coin
15:11-32 Lost (prodigal) son
16:1-13 Shrewd manager
16:19-31 Rich man and Lazarus
18:1-8 Persistent widow
18:9-14 Pharisee and tax collector

John

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

A GOOD IDEA:

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

WHAT HAPPENED ON THE CROSS?

The Bible uses different words and illustrations to explain what happened at Jesus' death and resurrection. Here are some of the most important:

A. SACRIFICE

An illustration from the Temple: Jesus was sacrificed for us as the Lamb of God.
1 Cor 5:7 - Eph 5:2 - Hebr 9:27f
Rev 5:12f - John 1:29

B. RECONCILIATION

An illustration from friendship/relationships: The friendship with God is restored and the enmity is removed.
Rom 5:10 - 2 Cor 5:18-20 - Col 1:21-22

C. REDEMPTION (=LIBERATION)

An illustration from slave markets: Jesus bought us (freed us) from slavery to sin and the Devil.
1 Cor 6:20 - Eph 1:7 - 1 Pet 1:18f
Rev 5:9 - Mark 10:45

D. JUSTIFICATION

An illustration from the law court: We are declared innocent because Jesus took the penalty for us.
Rom 3:24 & 5:1+9 - Gal 2:16
1 Cor 6:11 - Isaiah 53:11

E. ADOPTION

An illustration from family life: God receives us as his children because of Jesus.
Rom 8:15-17 - Gal 4:4-7 - Eph 1:5

LIFE TRANSFORMATION

«The Word of God was not given to us to increase our knowledge, but to transform our lives.» (Unknown)

ABBREVIATIONS IN THIS LEAFLET

7:3f = v. 3+following verse - 7:3ff = v. 3+several verses
19A: First half of chapter 19 - 19B: Second half of chapter 19
Psa: Psalms - Isa: Isaiah - Lam: Lamentations - Mat: Matthew

BIBLE STATISTICS

66 books: 39 in the OT and 27 in the NT - 1189 chapters - 31 173 verses
Chapter in the middle of the Bible: Psalm 118 - Shortest verses: John 11:35 - 1 Thess 5:17
Shortest chapter: Psalm 117 - Longest chapter: Psalm 119

