



START HERE

a quick + comprehensive
introduction to the Bible

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with
Deuterocanonicals/
Apocrypha

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AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

PHILADELPHIA

START HERE: A QUICK AND COMPREHENSIVE
INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

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“In the beginning was the Word ...”
John 1:1 (ESV)

START HERE WITH THE BIBLE

The Bible is one of the greatest books the world has ever seen. It is a book full of profound wisdom and insight about human nature and the character and purpose of the God who created all things. Throughout the centuries, people from many lands have opened the Bible and read from it in their own language. Here they have learned about God's love and justice. Great leaders and thinkers, along with people who are poor, suffering, or oppressed, have searched its pages and explored its truths, looking for the answers to life's problems and challenges.

You are invited to make that same exploration. This resource can help you begin a rewarding journey and encounter the Bible's life-changing message. It really doesn't matter where you begin, but it does matter *that* you begin. Use any one of the sections to get you started on a daily habit of reading the Bible. Discover for yourself the help and hope it has to offer.

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+ **SOME READINGS FOR SPECIAL DAYS** guides you to passages you may want to read on special days such as Christmas, Easter, Mother's Day, and even your own birthday (**page 24**).

+ **FAMOUS PASSAGES OF THE BIBLE** helps you locate those famous Bible stories you've heard—or heard about—time and again, but may never have read for yourself (**page 26**).

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INSIDE THE BIBLE

The word “Bible” comes from the Greek word *biblia*, which means “books.” So the Bible is really a collection or library of many books. These books are divided into two main parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Old Testament

The Old Testament tells the history of the people of Israel. This history is based on their faith in the God of Israel and on their religious life as the people of God. The authors of these books wrote about what God had done for them as a people and now they were to worship and obey God in return. The following chart shows the different groups of books that make up the Old Testament.

1. THE LAW

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

2. HISTORY

Joshua	2 Samuel	2 Chronicles
Judges	1 Kings	Ezra
Ruth	2 Kings	Nehemiah
1 Samuel	1 Chronicles	Esther

3. POETRY & WISDOM

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Songs

4. MAJOR PROPHETS

Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

5. MINOR PROPHETS

Hosea	Jonah	Zephaniah
Joel	Micah	Haggai
Amos	Nahum	Zechariah
Obadiah	Habakkuk	Malachi

Deuterocanonicals/Apocrypha

The Deuterocanonical/Apocryphal books form part of the ancient Greek translation of the Old Testament known as the Septuagint. They were located at various places among the other books of the Old Testament. They cover the period in between the Old Testament and New Testament and provide significant knowledge of developments during this period.

In order to serve the widest readership, included are several books that have been part of the Septuagint (3 and 4 Maccabees and Psalm 151), but have never been recognized as Deuterocanonical by Roman Catholics nor considered part of the Apocrypha by Protestants. These works, however, have been recognized as authoritative in Eastern Orthodox Churches.

1. HISTORY

1 Esdras

Additions to Esther

1 Maccabees

2 Maccabees

3 Maccabees

4 Maccabees

2. LETTERS

Baruch

Letter of Jeremiah

3. WISDOM

Wisdom of Solomon

Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)

4. DEVOTIONAL

Prayer of Azariah and Song of the Three Jews

Prayer of Manasseh

Psalm 151

5. TEACHING STORIES

Tobit

Judith

Susanna

Bel and the Dragon

6. PROPHECY

2 Esdras

New Testament

The books of the New Testament were written by the followers of Jesus Christ. These followers wanted others to know the Good News about Jesus Christ and the possibility of new life available to them through his death and resurrection. The following chart shows the different groups of books that make up the New Testament. Although scholarly opinion has varied, Paul has traditionally been identified as the author of the letters in the third category.

1. THE GOSPELS

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

3. PAUL'S LETTERS

Romans	Philippians	2 Timothy
1 Corinthians	Colossians	Titus
2 Corinthians	1 Thessalonians	Philemon
Galatians	2 Thessalonians	
Ephesians	1 Timothy	

2. HISTORY

Acts

4. GENERAL LETTERS

Hebrews	1 John
James	2 John
1 Peter	3 John
2 Peter	Jude

5. PROPHECY

Revelation

WHAT'S IN THE BIBLE

The following are summaries for each book of the Bible. It will be obvious from how brief the descriptions are that they are not complete. They should, however, serve as a quick and handy guide to the content of the whole Bible.

Old Testament

Genesis

In this book of beginnings the stories are about creation, early relationships between God and people, and God's promise to bless Abraham and his descendants.

Exodus

The name Exodus means “departure” and this book tells how God led the Israelites out of a life of hardship and slavery in Egypt. God made a covenant with them and gave them the Law to order their lives.

Leviticus

This book is named for the priestly tribe of Levi and is made up of laws concerning rituals and ceremonies.

Numbers

The Israelites wandered in the wilderness for forty years before entering Canaan, the promised land. The name of the book comes from two censuses taken during the journey.

Deuteronomy

Moses gave three farewell speeches shortly before he died. In them he reviewed the laws of God for the Israelites. This book gets its name—“second law”—from this review.

Joshua

Joshua led the Israelite armies into victory over the Canaanites. The book ends with the division of the land among the tribes of Israel.

Judges

The Israelites often fell away from God and into the hands of oppressors. God sent “judges” to lead and deliver them.

Ruth

Love and dedication between Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi, are the focus of this story.

1 Samuel

Samuel was the leader of Israel between the time of Judges and the time of Saul, the first king of Israel. When Saul's leadership failed, David was anointed by Samuel to be king.

2 Samuel

Under David's rule, the new nation was strong and unified. But after David committed adultery and murder, his family and nation suffered.

1 Kings

This book starts with stories about Solomon's reign over Israel. After the death of Solomon, the kingdom went to war with itself, north against south. The result was two nations, Israel in the north and Judah in the south.

2 Kings

Israel was conquered by Assyria in 721 BC. Judah was defeated by Babylon in 586 BC. These events were seen as judgment upon the people because they did not follow the laws of God.

1 Chronicles

This book begins with genealogies from Adam to David and then recounts the incidents of David's reign.

2 Chronicles

This book covers the same period as 2 Kings but the emphasis is on Judah, the southern kingdom, and its rulers.

Ezra

God's people returned to Jerusalem after being held captive in Babylon for several decades. One of the leaders was Ezra. This book contains his charge to the people to be true to the law of God.

Nehemiah

After the Temple was rebuilt, the protective wall around Jerusalem was restored. Nehemiah brought this effort to completion. He also worked with Ezra to restore religious fervor among the people.

Esther

This book tells the story of the Jewish queen of Persia who exposed a plot to destroy her people and thus saved all the Jews in that country from destruction.

Job

The story of Job addresses the question, “Why do innocent people suffer?”

Psalms

These 150 prayers and hymns were used by the Hebrew people to express their relationship with God. They cover the whole range of human emotions from joy to anger, from hope to despair.

Proverbs

This is a book of wise sayings and ethical and commonsense teachings on how to live a godly life.

Ecclesiastes

In a quest for happiness and the meaning of life, this writer, known as “the Philosopher,” asks many questions that are still raised in today’s society.

Song of Songs

This poem describes the joy and ecstasy of love. It has been understood both as a picture of God’s love for Israel and of Christ’s love for the church.

Isaiah

The prophet Isaiah brought the message of God’s judgment on the nations, pointed to a future king like David, and promised a time of comfort and peace.

Jeremiah

Before Babylon destroyed Judah, Jeremiah foretold God’s judgment. While his message was largely of destruction, he also pointed toward a new covenant with God.

Lamentations

As Jeremiah had warned, Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians. This book records five “laments” for the fallen city.

Ezekiel

Ezekiel's message was given to the Jews held captive in Babylon. He used stories and parables to speak about judgment, hope, and restoration.

Daniel

Daniel remained faithful to God while facing many pressures as a captive in Babylon. This book includes Daniel's prophetic visions.

Hosea

Hosea used his commitment to his wife in the face of her unfaithfulness to illustrate the "adultery" Israel had committed against God, whose faithful love never ceased.

Joel

After a locust plague in Judah, Joel urged the people to repent.

Amos

During an era of prosperity, this Judean prophet preached judgment on the rich leaders of Israel. Amos urged them to consider the poor and oppressed rather than their own self-satisfaction.

Obadiah

Obadiah prophesied judgment on Edom, a neighboring country.

Jonah

Jonah did not want to preach to the Ninevites, an enemy people. When he finally brought God's message to them, they repented.

Micah

Micah's message to Judah was a prophecy of judgment as well as forgiveness and hope for restoration. Especially notable is his single verse summary of what God requires of us (6:8).

Nahum

Nahum announced that God would destroy the people of Nineveh because of their cruelty in war.

Habakkuk

Habakkuk's book features a dialogue between Habakkuk and God about suffering and justice.

Zephaniah

Zephaniah announced the day of the Lord, which would bring judgment on Judah and other surrounding nations. This coming day would be one of doom for many, but a humble and faithful remnant would survive to bless the whole world.

Haggai

After the people returned from exile, Haggai reminded them to give God their highest priority and to rebuild the Temple before working on their own homes.

Zechariah

Like Haggai, Zechariah urged the people to rebuild the Temple, assuring them of God's help and blessings. His visions point to a glorious future.

Malachi

After the exiles returned, they became complacent about their religious life. Malachi tried to stir them up by preaching about the day of the Lord.

Deuterocanon/Apocrypha

Tobit

The book of Tobit provides a clear picture of Jewish culture and religious life in the centuries before the time of Jesus. It weaves together two stories about Jewish life in Persia after the exile—that of the pious Tobit in Nineveh and the long-suffering Sarah in Ecbatana.

Judith

This book tells the story of Judith, a woman of great courage and faith in God who was able to carry out a bold plan to rescue her people by driving out the enemy troops who were attacking her city.

Additions to Esther

The book of Esther in Greek is a translation, adaptation, and expansion of the book of Esther in Hebrew. The new material helps the reader better to see the religious dimensions of Esther's story.

Wisdom of Solomon

This book uses both traditional Jewish material and ideas from Greek philosophy to teach that God will reward the faithful and punish the wicked.

Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)

This book is a lengthy collection of wise advice on a wide variety of practical problems. It is similar in style to the Old Testament book of Proverbs.

Baruch

This book is set in the time of the Babylonian exile. It is comprised of a national prayer of confession, a wisdom hymn and a consolation poem in the style of Isaiah.

Letter of Jeremiah

While written in the form of a letter, this book is really more of a sermon about the foolishness of idolatry.

Prayer of Azariah and Song of the Three Jews

This is an addition to the book of Daniel. It includes the prayer of Azariah followed by a hymn of praise that the three friends of Daniel sang in the midst of the fiery furnace.

Susanna

This book is also an addition to the book of Daniel. It is the story of a narrow escape by an innocent victim of lust and lying, and is the basis of Daniel's enduring reputation as a brilliant judge.

Bel and the Dragon

This is the third of the additions to Daniel. It consists of two stories attacking idolatry. In each one Daniel shows that there is only one true and living God.

1 Maccabees

This is a history of the Jewish revolt (168 BC) against the Seleucid rulers of Syria. It tells of the priestly family of Judas Maccabeus and the establishment of an independent Judea under Maccabean kings (134 BC). This book seeks to show that God, who had led and rescued Israel in former times of crisis, is just as active in their present day, and in the same ways.

2 Maccabees

This book is not a continuation of the history given in 1 Maccabees. Instead, it is a parallel account of the period covered in 1 Maccabees 1–7. The author is deeply interested in the meaning of martyrdom and resurrection.

1 Esdras

Esdras is the Greek form of the name Ezra and this book closely parallels the canonical Old Testament book of Ezra. It is a history of the Jews from the time of Josiah to that of Ezra. The author's purpose is to encourage the reform and renewal of Israel's worship life.

Prayer of Manasseh

This brief prayer is an excellent example of a psalm of repentance.

Psalms 151

This psalm celebrates the abilities of the young David in his victory over Goliath. In most manuscripts of the ancient Greek Bible it follows the usual 150 psalms. In 1956 a Hebrew Psalms scroll containing Psalm 151 was found among the Dead Sea Scrolls. Until then this additional psalm had never appeared in any Hebrew manuscript.

3 Maccabees

This book appears in the ancient Greek Septuagint and in an appendix to the Latin Vulgate Bible and is recognized as Deuterocanonical Scripture by a number of Eastern Orthodox Churches. Its contents deal with the suffering of the Jews in Alexandria about a half-century before the Maccabean period in Palestine (168–134 BC). Its aim is to console and guide the faithful of the first century BC in the midst of their difficulties.

2 Esdras

This book is not related to 1 Esdras. It is a series of visions and revelations which aims to reveal the future in ways that will help believers bear up under the suffering and persecution they must endure.

4 Maccabees

In important manuscripts of the Greek Bible this book has been included as an appendix. It was early translated into Syriac and has had a deep influence on Eastern Christian religious thought. While using some historical events from the Maccabean era as examples, this book is really an extended lecture or essay on the power of reason to control human emotions.

New Testament

Matthew

This Gospel includes many Old Testament quotations, thus appealing to a Jewish audience and presenting Jesus as the Messiah promised in the Hebrew Scriptures. Matthew told the story of Jesus from birth to resurrection and placed emphasis on his teaching.

Mark

Mark wrote a short, action-packed Gospel. He emphasized Jesus's miracles and his life of suffering. His aim was to deepen the faith and commitment of the believers in the community to which he wrote.

Luke

In this Gospel, the availability of salvation for all people is emphasized. Luke proclaimed this message by showing Jesus's involvement with people who are poor, needy, and on the fringes of society.

John

The Gospel of John stands apart from the others. The author organized his message around seven signs that point to Jesus as the Son of God. His writing style is reflective and filled with striking images.

Acts

When Jesus left his disciples, the Holy Spirit came to abide with them. Written by Luke as the sequel to his Gospel, Acts records key events in the history of the work of the early Christian church to spread the gospel throughout the Mediterranean world.

Romans

In this important letter, Paul wrote to the Romans about life in the Spirit, which is given to believers in Christ through faith. The apostle tells them about God's great kindness and declares that because of Jesus Christ, God accepts us and sets us free from our sins.

1 Corinthians

This letter deals with the problems the church in Corinth was experiencing: dissension, immorality, public worship, and confusion about spiritual gifts.

2 Corinthians

In this letter, Paul wrote about his relationship with the church of Corinth and the effects of certain false apostles on his ministry.

Galatians

This letter addresses freedom from the law through Christ. Paul declares that it is by faith that all who believe are put right with God.

Ephesians

A central theme to this letter is that God's eternal purpose is to bring together from many nations and peoples the universal church of Jesus Christ.

Philippians

This letter emphasizes the joy found in any situation when a person believes in Christ. Paul wrote it while in prison.

Colossians

In this letter Paul tells the people of Colossae to make Christ the center of their faith and to put aside their superstitions.

1 Thessalonians

In this letter Paul gives advice to the people of Thessalonica concerning Christ's return.

2 Thessalonians

This letter discusses the same topics as the first. Paul teaches the people a way to be ready for the Lord.

1 Timothy

This letter served as a guide for Timothy, a young leader in the church. It contains advice about worship, ministry, and relationships within the church.

2 Timothy

This is Paul's last letter. In it he offers a final challenge to his coworker.

Titus

Titus was ministering in Crete. In this letter, Paul gives him advice on how to help Christians follow Christ.

Philemon

In this letter, Philemon is urged to forgive his runaway slave, Onesimus, and accept him as a friend in Christ.

Hebrews

This letter challenges new Jewish Christians to move beyond their traditional rituals and ceremonies and believe that Christ has fulfilled them all.

James

James advises putting beliefs into practice and offers practical ways for Christians to live out their faith.

1 Peter

This letter was written to comfort early Christians who were being persecuted for their faith.

2 Peter

In this letter Peter warns against false teachers and urges Christians to stay loyal to God.

1 John

This letter explains basic truths about the Christian life, with emphasis on the command to love one another.

2 John

This letter, addressed to “the elect lady and her children,” warns against false teachers.

3 John

In contrast to 2 John, this letter states the need to welcome people who preach Christ.

Jude

Jude warns against the influence of evil ones outside the fellowship of believers.

Revelation

This book was written to encourage persecuted believers and affirm their faith that God will care for them. Using visions and symbols, the writer illustrates the triumph of good over evil and the creation of a new heaven and new earth.

HOW TO READ THE BIBLE

Set aside time each day to read from your Bible. Try to make it the same time each day. Be realistic. Commit yourself only to as much time as you honestly feel that you can stick to on an ongoing basis.

You can read the Bible casually, but most people find it helpful to plan your reading. You might read through an entire book section by section. Or you could choose one of the many Bible reading plans offered in editions of the Bible or available online. Some reading plans are topical, some are chronological, and others are connected to the calendar (in many Christian traditions these are called “lectionary” readings).

Before you begin reading, ask for God’s guidance and blessing. Some people find it useful to keep a daily notebook. Use the following steps to get the most out of your daily Bible reading:

1. **Select** a passage.
2. **Examine** its context:
 - A. What kind of book is it drawn from? [A biographical book such as one of the Gospel accounts of Jesus’s life; a long historical book, such as 2 Samuel, which tells of the reign of King David; a brief letter to a person (1 or 2 Timothy) or to a specific church (1 or 2 Corinthians).]
 - B. What is the overall purpose/intent of this book? (Do not do lengthy research, but feel free to read the opening and closing paragraphs as well as section headings and introductions if your Bible has them.)
 - C. What occurs or is discussed in the passages immediately preceding and following the passage you chose?
4. **Read** the passage quickly for sense.
5. **Identify** key words or phrases. Are there words or thoughts that are repeated throughout the passage? Are any cause and effect relationships established? (These are often signaled by words like *if* and *then*, *therefore*, *because*, *since*, and *so*.) Are any comparisons made or similarities pointed out? Are any two people, things, or concepts contrasted?

6. **Read** the passage again and ask yourself what is the intent or purpose of the passage. Try to find out what the author is saying. Be honest; don't just look for what you want to hear. The Bible has many strong messages that can change lives!
7. **Ask** questions about what you read. What do you learn about God from this passage? Ask yourself how this message applies to you. Is there anything you need to change in your life in order to be a more faithful child of God or more loving to your neighbor? Ask for God's help in making this change.
8. **Re-read** the passage one more time. Is there one verse you would like to commit to memory? Why not write it on an index card and carry it with you throughout the day as a study aid?
9. **Thank God** for what he has shown you, and ask for his help as you seek to apply this lesson in your life.
10. **Share** what you have learned with someone else.

How to look up a Bible reference

Every verse in the Bible is marked by its own *verse number*. To find any one of the passages listed in these reader's helps, you need to find the book, the chapter in the book, and the verse or verses within that chapter. The chapter number immediately follows the name of the book. This is followed by a period (.) or colon (:), which is followed by the number or range of numbers for the verses you seek. For example: **1 Corinthians 12:1-11** is the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians, chapter twelve, verses one through eleven.

SOME READINGS FOR SPECIAL DAYS

New Year's Day	Colossians 3:5-17
Epiphany	Matthew 2:1-12
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Exodus 3:1-22
Christian Unity Sunday	John 17
Valentine's Day	1 Corinthians 13; 1 John 4:7-21
Presidents' Day	Isaiah 32:1-8
Ash Wednesday	Psalm 51; Joel 2:12-19; Matthew 6:1-6; James 1:12-18
St. Patrick's Day	Isaiah 52:7-12
Palm Sunday	Mark 11:1-11; John 12:12-19; Philippians 2:5-11
Holy (Maundy) Thursday	Matthew 26:26-30; John 13:1-35; Psalm 116
Good Friday	John 18:1-19:42; Psalm 22; Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Easter	Matthew 28; Luke 24; John 20; Acts 10:34-43; Psalm 33
Passover	Exodus 12
Mother's Day	1 Samuel 1:1-28; Proverbs 23:22-25; 31:10-31; Luke 1:26-56
Memorial Day	Isaiah 26:1-19
Pentecost	Acts 2:1-11
Father's Day	Proverbs 4; 20:7; Luke 15:11-32
Independence Day	Psalm 33
Labor Day	Genesis 1:26-2:4
Yom Kippur	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Grandparent's Day	Psalm 128
World Communion Sunday	1 Corinthians 11:23-34
All Saints Day	Hebrews 11
Stewardship Day	Matthew 25:14-29; 2 Corinthians 9:1-15
Election Day	1 Peter 2:13-17
Veterans' Day	Isaiah 2:1-5
Bible Sunday	2 Timothy 3:10-17
Thanksgiving	Deuteronomy 8:1-10; Psalm 65; 67
First Sunday in Advent	Isaiah 63:15-64:12; Matthew 24:36-44; Luke 21:25-36; Psalm 25

Second Sunday in Advent	Malachi 3:1-5; Matthew 3:1-12; Psalm 85
Third Sunday in Advent	Isaiah 12:1-6; Matthew 11:2-19; Luke 3:7-18; Philippians 4:4-9
Fourth Sunday in Advent	Isaiah 7:10-17; Micah 5:2-5; Luke 1:26-56; Psalm 89:1-18
Christmas	Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 1:18-25; John 1:1-18; Titus 3:4-7
Personal Birthday	Psalm 145

FAMOUS PASSAGES FROM THE BIBLE

1. Stories from the Old Testament

EARLY BEGINNINGS

Creation and Sin	Genesis 2:4—3:24
The First Murder	Genesis 4:1-15
Noah and the Flood	Genesis 6:1-9:17
The Tower of Babylon (Babel)	Genesis 11:1-9
The Call of Abraham	Genesis 12:1-9
The Destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah	Genesis 19:1-28
Hagar and Ishmael	Genesis 16:1-15; 21:9-21
The Birth of Isaac	Genesis 21:1-8
Abraham's Offering of Isaac	Genesis 22:1-19
The Story of Jacob	Genesis 25:19-35:29
The Story of Joseph	Genesis 37-50
Moses in Egypt	Exodus 1-14
Moses's Wilderness Wanderings	Exodus 15:22-20:26; 31:18-34:35; Numbers 20:1—21:25
The Ten Commandments	Exodus 20:1-17; Deuteronomy 5:1-21
The King of Moab and Balaam	Numbers 22-24

PEOPLE OF GREAT FAITH IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Rahab Helps the Israelite Spies	Joshua 2
Joshua, Military Strategist	Joshua 3; 6
Deborah, a Woman of Power and Judgment	Judges 4-5
Gideon, the Conqueror	Judges 6:11-8:32
Samson, a Man of Great Strength	Judges 13-16
Ruth, a Woman of Loyalty and Devotion	Ruth 1-4
Samuel, a Prophet Who Listened to God	1 Samuel 1-3; 7-10; 12; 15; 16
Saul, Israel's First King	1 Samuel 8-11; 13; 15; 28; 31
David, the Shepherd King	1 Samuel 16-27; 29:1-30:25; 2 Samuel 2; 11; 12; 15:1-8; 18; 1 Kings 1:1-31; 2:1-11
Solomon, the Wise King	1 Kings 2:12-11:43
Elijah, a Great Prophet	1 Kings 17-19; 21; 2 Kings 1
Elisha, His Successor	2 Kings 2; 4:1-7:2; 13:14-21
Nehemiah, a Heroic Builder	Nehemiah 1; 2; 4
Esther, a Brave Queen	Esther 1-10
Daniel, a Prophet of Courage	Daniel 1-6
Jonah, the Reluctant Missionary	Jonah 1-4

2. Famous Passages from the Deuterocanonicals/Apocrypha

Moral Counsel to a Son	Tobit 4:1-21
A Hymn of Praise to God	Tobit 13:1-18
A Song of Thanksgiving	Judith 16:1-17
Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom	Wisdom 9:1-18
God's Wisdom in Creation	Sirach 16:24-17:14
God's Great Majesty	Sirach 18:1-14
In Praise of Wisdom	Sirach 24:1-34

In Praise of the Faithful	Sirach 44:1–50:24
A Hymn of Thanksgiving	Sirach 50:22–24
Song of the Three Young Men	Prayer of Azariah 23–68
The Faithful Martyrs	2 Maccabees 7
The Three Royal Guards	1 Esdras 3:1–5:6
A Prayer of Confession	Prayer of Manasseh
Ezra Copies the Scriptures	2 Esdras 14:37–48

3. Stories from the New Testament

THE LIFE OF JESUS

The Birth of Jesus	Matthew 1:18–2:15; Luke 2:1–20
Jesus Is Named and Presented in the Temple	Luke 2:21–40
The Young Jesus	Luke 2:41–52
The Baptism of Jesus	Matthew 3; Mark 1:1–11; Luke 3:21–22
The Temptation of Jesus	Matthew 4:1–11; Mark 1:12–13; Luke 4:1–13
Jesus Calls His First Disciples	Matthew 4:18–22; Mark 1:16–20; Luke 5:1–11
Jesus Chooses Twelve Apostles	Matthew 10:1–4; Mark 3:13–19; Luke 6:12–16
The Transfiguration of Jesus	Matthew 17:1–13; Mark 9:2–13

JESUS'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION

Jesus's Entry into Jerusalem	Matthew 21:1–11; Mark 11:1–11; Luke 19:29–44; John 12:12–19
The Last Supper of Jesus	Matthew 26:17–35; Mark 14:12–26; Luke 22:1–38
Jesus Prays in Gethsemane	Matthew 26:36–46; Mark 14:32–42; Luke 22:39–46
Jesus's Trial and Crucifixion	Matthew 26:47–27:66; Mark 14:43–15:47; Luke 22:47–23:56; John 18; 19
The Resurrection of Jesus	Matthew 28:1–10; Mark 16; Luke 24:1–12; John 20

JESUS'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:16-20

The Ascension of Jesus

Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-12

MIRACLES AND HEALINGS OF JESUS

Jesus Turns Water into Wine

John 2:1-11

Jesus Feeds Many People

Matthew 14:13-21; 15:32-39; Mark 6:30-44; 8:1-10; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15

Jesus Calms a Storm

Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

The Great Catch of Fish

Luke 5:1-11

Jesus Walks on Water

Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:16-21

Jesus Heals People with Skin Diseases

Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16; 17:11-19

Jesus Casts Out Demons

Matthew 8:28-34; 12:22-37; 17:14-21; Mark 1:21-28; 3:20-30; 5:1-20; 9:14-29; Luke 4:31-37; 8:26-39; 9:37-43; 11:14-23

Jesus Heals the Blind

Matthew 9:27-31; 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43

Jesus Heals a Deaf Man

Mark 7:31-37

Jesus Heals the Paralyzed and Crippled

Matthew 9:1-8; 12:9-14; Mark 2:1-12; 3:1-6; Luke 5:17-26; 6:6-11; 14:1-6; John 5:1-9

Jesus Heals Many Women

Matthew 9:18-26; 15:21-28; Mark 5:21-43; 7:24-30; Luke 8:1-3; 8:40-56; 13:10-17

Jesus Heals a Centurion's Servant

Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-law

Matthew 8:14, 15; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38-39

Jesus Heals an Official's Son

John 4:46-54

Jesus Revives an Official's Daughter

Matthew 9:18-19, 23-26; Mark 5:21-24, 35-42; Luke 8:40-42, 49-56

Jesus Raises the Dead

Luke 7:11-17; John 11:1-44

What's a parable?

Parables are stories that use typical, everyday situations to teach important truths. Jesus used many parables to teach his followers about the Kingdom of God.

TEACHINGS AND PARABLES OF JESUS

The Sermon on the Mount	Matthew 5-7; Luke 6:20-49
The Beatitudes	Matthew 5:3-11; Luke 6:20-26
The Great Commandment	Matthew 22:37-39; Mark 12:29-31; Luke 10:27
The Golden Rule	Matthew 7:12; Luke 6:31
The Grain of Mustard Seed	Matthew 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-19
The Parable of the Sower	Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15
The Parable of the Growing Seed	Mark 4:26-29
Some Parables about the Kingdom of Heaven	Matthew 13:24-52
The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant	Matthew 18:23-35
The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard	Matthew 20:1-16
The Parable of the Tenants in the Vineyard	Matthew 21:33-46; Mark 12:1-11; Luke 20:9-18
The Parable of the Wedding Feast	Matthew 22:1-14; Luke 14:15-24
The Parable of the Ten Young Women (Virgins)	Matthew 25:1-13
The Parable of the Three Servants and Their Coins	Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:11-27
The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats	Matthew 25:31-46
The Parable of the Good Samaritan	Luke 10:25-37
The Parable of the Shepherd	John 10:1-21
The Parable of the Rich Fool	Luke 12:16-21
The Parable of the Watchful Servants	Luke 12:35-48

TEACHINGS AND PARABLES OF JESUS

The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree	Luke 13:6–9
The Parable of the Lost Sheep	Matthew 18:12–14; Luke 15:3–7
The Parable of the Lost Coin	Luke 15:8–10
The Parable of the Lost Son	Luke 15:11–32
The Parable of the Shrewd Manager	Luke 16:1–13
The Rich Man and Lazarus	Luke 16:19–31
The Parable of the Widow and the Judge	Luke 18:1–8
The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector	Luke 18:9–14

OTHER NEW TESTAMENT STORIES

The Birth of John the Baptist	Luke 1:57–66
John the Baptist Is Executed	Matthew 14:1–12; Mark 6:14–29
Peter Receives the Keys of the Kingdom	Matthew 16:13–20
The Holy Spirit Comes on Pentecost	Acts 2
Stephen, the First Martyr	Acts 6:5–15; 7:54–60
Philip Baptizes the Ethiopian Official	Acts 8:26–39
The Conversion of Paul	Acts 9:1–31
Peter and Cornelius	Acts 10
Peter in Prison	Acts 12:1–19
The Baptism of Lydia	Acts 16:11–15
Paul in Prison	Acts 16:16–40
The Riot at Ephesus	Acts 19:23–41
Paul's Voyage to Rome	Acts 27; 28

4. Other Famous Passages

SONGS OF THE BIBLE

Moses' Song of Deliverance	Exodus 15:1–18
Deborah and Barak's Song of Victory	Judges 5:1–31
Hannah's Song of Praise	1 Samuel 2:1–10

SONGS OF THE BIBLE

David's Song of Lament	2 Samuel 1:17-27
David's Song of Victory	2 Samuel 22; Psalm 18
Solomon's Love Song	Song of Songs 2:10-15
Mary's Song of Praise	Luke 1:46-55
A Hymn to Christ Jesus	Philippians 2:6-11

PRAYERS OF THE BIBLE

Solomon's Personal Prayer	1 Kings 3:5-10
Solomon's Public Prayer	1 Kings 8:22-61; 2 Chronicles 6:12-42
Hezekiah's Temple Prayer	2 Kings 19:15-19; Isaiah 37:14-20
David's Prayer of Thanksgiving	2 Samuel 7:18-29; 1 Chronicles 17:16-27
Job's Prayer	Job 42:1-6
Jeremiah's Prayer	Jeremiah 32:16-25
Daniel's Prayer	Daniel 9:3-19
Jonah's Prayer	Jonah 2:1-9
The Lord's Prayer	Matthew 6:9-13
Jesus's Prayer in Gethsemane	Matthew 26:36-44
Jesus's Prayer for His Disciples	John 17
The Disciples' Prayer	Acts 4:24-31
Paul's Prayer for Believers	Ephesians 3:14-21

SPECIAL BLESSINGS FROM THE BIBLE

Invocations and Openings	Psalm 19:14; 1 Corinthians 1:3; 1 Timothy 1:2; 2 John 3; Revelation 1:4-6
Dismissals and Closings	Numbers 6:24-26; 1 Kings 8:57-58; Romans 15:5-6,13; 16:25-27; 2 Corinthians 13:13; Ephesians 6:23- 24; Philippians 4:7; Hebrews 13:20-21; Jude 24-25

FINDING HELP IN THE BIBLE

HELP IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Being a friend	Proverbs 17:17; Luke 10:25-37; John 15:11-17; Romans 16:1-2
Being a leader	Isaiah 11:1-9; 32:1-8; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 2 Timothy 2:14-26; Titus 1:5-9
Caring for the aged and widowed	Genesis 47:1-12; Ruth 1; Proverbs 23:22; 1 Timothy 5:3-8
Celebrating the birth/adoption of a child	Psalms 100; Proverbs 22:6; Luke 18:15-17; John 16:16-22
Celebrating a graduation	Psalms 119:105-106; Proverbs 9:10-12; Galatians 5:16-26; Philippians 4:4-9
Celebrating a marriage	Genesis 2:18-24; Song of Songs 8:6-7; Ephesians 5:21-33; Colossians 2:6-7
Celebrating a wedding anniversary	Psalms 100; 1 Corinthians 13
Controlling your temper	Proverbs 14:17, 29; 15:18; 19:11; 29:22; Ecclesiastes 7:9; Galatians 5:16-26
Controlling your tongue	Psalms 12; 19:14; Proverbs 11:13; 26:20; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17; James 3:1-12
Discovering God's will	Psalms 15; Micah 6:6-8; Matthew 5:14-16; Luke 9:21-27; Romans 13:8-14; 2 Peter 1:3-9; 1 John 4:7-21
Encountering a cult	Matthew 7:15-20; 2 Peter 2; 1 John 4:1-6; Jude
Encountering peer pressure	Proverbs 1:7-19; Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 6:1-5; Ephesians 5:1-20
Entering college	Proverbs 2:1-8; 3:1-18; 4:1-27; 23:12; Romans 8:1-17; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31
Entering military service	2 Samuel 22:2-51; Psalm 91; Ephesians 6:10-20; 2 Timothy 2:1-13
Experiencing the death of a loved one	Job 19:25-27; John 11:25-27; 14:1-7; Romans 8:31-39; 14:7-9; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Experiencing illness	Psalms 23; Mark 1:29-34; 6:53-56; James 5:14-16
Experiencing suffering and persecution	Psalms 109; 119:153-160; Matthew 5:3-12; John 15:18-16:4; Romans 8:18-30; 2 Corinthians 4:1-15; Hebrews 12:1-11; 1 Peter 4:12-19
Facing a difficult decision	1 Kings 3; Esther 4-7; Psalm 139; Daniel 2:14-23; Colossians 3:12-17
Facing a divorce	Psalms 25; Matthew 19:1-9; Philippians 3:1-11

HELP IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Facing homelessness	Psalm 90:1, 2; Isaiah 65:17-25; Lamentations 3:19-24; Luke 9:57-62; Revelation 21:1-4
Facing imprisonment	Lamentations 3:34-36; Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 4:16-21
Facing life alone	1 Corinthians 7:25-38; 12:1-31
Facing a natural disaster	Genesis 8:1-9:17; Job 36:22-37:13; Psalm 29; 36:5-9; 124; Jeremiah 31:35-37; Romans 8:31-39; 1 Peter 1:3-12
Facing a trial or lawsuit	Psalm 26; Isaiah 50:4-11; Matthew 5:25-26; Luke 18:1-8
Losing your job	Jeremiah 29:10-14; Luke 16:1-13; Philippians 4:10-13
Losing your property and possessions	Job 1:13-22; 42:7-17; Isaiah 30:19-26; 41:17-20; Romans 8:18-39
Managing your time	Proverbs 12:11; 28:19; Mark 13:32-37; Luke 21:34-36; 1 Timothy 4:11-16; Titus 3:8-14
Moving into a new home	Psalm 127:1-2; Proverbs 24:3-4; John 14:1-7; Ephesians 3:14-21; Revelation 3:20-21
Overcoming addiction	Psalm 40:1-5, 11-17; 116:1-7; Proverbs 23:29-35; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Ephesians 4:22-24
Overcoming a grudge	Leviticus 19:17-18; Matthew 5:23-26; Luke 6:27-36; Ephesians 4:25-32
Overcoming prejudice	Matthew 7:1-5; Acts 10:34-36; Galatians 3:26-29; Ephesians 2:11-22; Colossians 3:5-11; James 2:1-13
Overcoming pride	Psalm 131; Mark 9:33-37; Luke 14:7-11; Luke 18:9-14; 22:24-27; Romans 12:14-16; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; 2 Corinthians 12:1-10
Overcoming procrastination	Matthew 22:1-14; 25:1-13; 2 Corinthians 6:1-2
Raising children	Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21
Respecting civil authorities	Mark 12:13-17; Romans 13:1-7; Titus 3:1-2; 1 Peter 2:13-17
Respecting parents	Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 23:22; Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20
Retiring from your job	Numbers 6:24-26; Psalm 145; Matthew 25:31-46; Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 3:12-21; 2 Peter 1:2

HELP IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Seeking forgiveness	Psalm 32:1-5; 51; Proverbs 28:13; Joel 2:12-17; Matthew 6:14-15; Luke 15; Philemon; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 John 1:5-10
Seeking God's help	Psalm 5; 57; 86; 119:169-176; 121; 130; Matthew 7:7-12
Seeking justice	Psalm 10; 17; 75; 94; Isaiah 42:1-7; 61:1-9; Amos 5:21-24; Habakkuk 1:1-2:4
Seeking salvation	John 3:1-21; Romans 1:16-17; 3:21-31; 5:1-11; 10:5-13; Ephesians 1:3-14; 2:1-10
Seeking strength	Psalms 46; 138; Isaiah 40:27-31; 51:12-16; Ephesians 6:10-20; 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17
Seeking truth	Psalm 119:153-160; John 8:31-47; 14:6-14; 16:4b-15; 1 Timothy 2:1-7
Sharing your gifts	Exodus 35:20-29; Malachi 3:6-12; Luke 21:1-4; Acts 2:43-47; 4:32-37; Romans 12:9-13; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; 9:6-15
Starting a new job	Proverbs 11:3; 22:29; Romans 12:3-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; 1 Peter 4:7-11
Understanding your relationship with God	Deuteronomy 5:1-22; Psalm 139; John 15:1-17; Romans 5:1-11; 8:1-17
Understanding your relationship with others	Deuteronomy 5:16-21; Proverbs 3:27-35; Matthew 18:15-17; 18:21-35; Romans 14:13-23; 15:1-6; Galatians 6:1-10; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 John 4:7-12
Worrying about the future	Isaiah 35; 60; Jeremiah 29:10-14; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Revelation 21:1-8
Worrying about growing old	Psalm 37:23-29; Isaiah 46:3-4
Worrying about money	Proverbs 11:7; Ecclesiastes 5:10-20; Matthew 6:24-34; Luke 12:13-21; 1 Timothy 6:6-10

EXPERIENCING TROUBLESOME FEELINGS

Afraid?	Psalms 27; 91; Isaiah 41:5-13; Mark 4:35-41; Hebrews 13:5-6; 1 John 4:13-18
Afraid of death?	Psalm 23; 63:1-8; John 6:35-40; Romans 8:18-39; 1 Corinthians 15:35-57; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; 2 Timothy 1:8-10

EXPERIENCING TROUBLESOME FEELINGS

Angry?	Proverbs 15:1; Matthew 5:21-24; Romans 12:17-21; Ephesians 4:26-32; James 1:19-21
Anxious? Worried?	Psalms 25; Matthew 6:24-34; 10:26-31; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 5:7
Depressed?	Psalms 16; 43; 130; Isaiah 61:1-4; Jeremiah 15:10-21; Lamentations 3:55-57; John 3:14-17; Ephesians 3:14-21
Disappointed? Let down?	Psalms 55; 62:1-8; Jeremiah 20:7-18
Discouraged?	Psalms 34; Isaiah 12:1-6; Romans 15:13; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; Philippians 4:10-13; Colossians 1:9-14; Hebrews 6:9-12
Doubting your faith in God?	Psalms 8; 146; Proverbs 30:5; Matthew 7:7-12; Luke 17:5-6; John 20:24-31; Romans 4:13-25; Hebrews 11; 1 John 5:13-15
Frustrated?	Job 21:1-16; 24:1-17; 36:1-26; Matthew 7:13-14
Impatient?	Psalms 13; 37:1-7; 40:1-5; Ecclesiastes 3:1-15; Lamentations 3:25-33; Hebrews 6:13-20; James 5:7-11
Insecure? Lacking confidence?	Deuteronomy 31:1-8; Psalms 73:21-26; 108; Philippians 4:10-20; 1 John 3:19-24
Jealous?	Psalms 49; Proverbs 23:17; James 3:13-18
Lonely?	Psalms 22; 42; John 14:15-31a
Overwhelmed? Experiencing stress?	Isaiah 55:1-9; Matthew 11:25-30; John 4:1-30; 2 Corinthians 6:3-10; Revelation 22:17
Rejected?	Psalms 38; Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Matthew 9:9-13; Luke 4:16-30; John 15:18-16:4; Ephesians 1:3-14; 1 Peter 2:1-10
Tempted?	Psalms 19:12-14; 141; Luke 4:1-13; Hebrews 2:11-18; 4:14-16; James 1:12-18
Tempted by sex?	2 Samuel 11:1-12:25; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Galatians 5:16-26
Tired? Weary?	Psalms 3:5-6; 4:4-8; Isaiah 35:1-10; Matthew 11:25-30; 2 Thessalonians 3:16; Hebrews 4:1-11
Feeling useless? Inferior?	Isaiah 6:1-8; Jeremiah 1:4-10; Galatians 1:11-24; Ephesians 4:1-16; 1 Peter 2:4-10
Vengeful?	Matthew 5:38-42; Romans 12:17-21

SUPPORTING OTHERS IN PAIN OR TROUBLE

Wounds of the heart are serious and will affect our behavior	Psalms 109:22, Proverbs 14:10, Proverbs 17:22, Proverbs 18:14
Many people in the Bible felt pain and expressed it to God and others	1 Samuel 1:10, 13–18, Psalm 55:4–6, Matthew 26:37–38, John 11:33–35
People who are suffering may say hard things, hide their true feelings, and feel cut off from others	2 Kings 4:26–27, Job 6:25–26, Job 10:1, Psalm 31:9–14, Psalm 88:8, 18
God comforts us in our suffering so that we can comfort others	Ecclesiastes 4:9–12, Psalm 119:50, 92, Isaiah 40:11, 2 Corinthians 1:3–7
We should listen carefully to others, help them express their pain, and not hurry with good advice	Job 13:12–13; 21:2–3a, Ecclesiastes 3:4, 7, Psalm 32:3, Proverbs 18:13, Proverbs 20:5, Galatians 6:2, James 1:19
God hears and understands our cries of pain	Psalms 6:1–4, 6–9, Psalm 34:17–18, Isaiah 53:3–4, Matthew 9:35–36, Matthew 25:35–36, Hebrews 2:18
God understands our anger and doubt	1 Kings 19, Psalm 73:21–28, John 20:19–29, Hebrews 4:15–16
God is a powerful protector and will bring justice when the time is right	Psalms 73:25–28, Psalm 96:10–13, Romans 9:22–24, 2 Peter 3:9
God will not abandon us	Psalms 27, Psalm 121, Isaiah 49:13–16, Romans 8:18–39, 1 Corinthians 10:13
We can turn to God each day for renewal and strength	Psalms 46, Isaiah 40:28–31, Isaiah 57:15, John 14:15–21
God can work positively in negative situations	Genesis 50:20, Romans 5:1–5, Romans 8:28, James 1:2–4
God loves us and has good things in store for us	Isaiah 61:1–4, Matthew 7:7–11, John 14:1–14, 2 Corinthians 4:16–5:9, Revelation 21:1–7

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT GOD'S FORGIVENESS

Every person is separated from God because of sin.	Isaiah 59:1-15; Romans 3:9-20; Romans 5:12-21; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 7:14-25
God has always sought to form a close relationship with people.	Exodus 19:3b-8; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Isaiah 54:1-10; 1 Peter 1:1-10; 1 John 3:1-10
God has reached out to people in a personal way by sending Jesus Christ.	Colossians 1:15-23; Romans 5:1-11; 1 Peter 2:10-25; John 3:1-21; 2 Timothy 1:3-10; Ephesians 2:1-10
God's forgiveness through Jesus Christ is available to every person	Psalm 51:1-17; 1 John 1:5-10; Romans 10:5-13; Psalm 32:1-11; Romans 8:31-39; Romans 3:21-26
New life in Christ calls a person to live in a Christ-like way.	Romans 6:1-14; Matthew 20:20-28; Ephesians 4:17-32; Galatians 5:16-26; 1 John 4:7-21; Romans 12:1-21



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