Bible Survey

Survey: *"A general view, examination, or description of something."* That is exactly what this material is designed to be: a general overview, a piecing together of the Scripture in our minds. This study may be described as a "bird's eye view" of the Bible. When we can step back and see the big picture, we can then zoom in on sections and know the context and see more clearly what God is doing. Our goal is to have a good understanding of the ways God has dealt with man and the way God deals with mankind today. The Bible is an incredible book, and we simply seek to appreciate it in ways that bring us ever closer to our God.

Original Material by Steve Fontenot
Current Edition by Kris Emerson
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Lesson 1 – *Dispensations in the Bible*

Drill Questions:

1) **What are the two major divisions of the Bible?**

2) **How many books are in the Bible? How many in the Old Testament? How many in the New?**

3) **Approximately how many authors wrote the Bible?**

4) **When was the first book written? Who wrote it?**

5) **When was the last book written? Who wrote it?**

6) **Give the names of the Old Testament in order.**

7) **Give the names of the New Testament in order.**

8) **What does the word "Genesis" mean?**

9) **What does the word "Exodus" mean?**

Dispensation

"A system of revealed commands and promises regulating human affairs" (Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary, 1970).

"A religious system or code of commands considered to have been divinely revealed or appointed" (The American Heritage Dictionary, 1991).

oikonomia – "**Primarily signifies the management of a household or of household affairs** (oikos – house, nomos, law). Note: A dispensation is not a period or epoch (a common, but erroneous, use of the word), **but a mode of dealing, an arrangement or administration of affairs**" (W.E. Vine, *Expository Dictionary of N.T. Words*).

"The word oikonomia properly signifies the plan which the master of a family, or his steward, hath established for the management of any sort of business" (James Macknight, *Apostolic Epistles*).

New Testament example: **Luke 16:1-4** – *"Give an account of your **management**"* (NASB). (KJV, NKJV, ASV – "**stewardship**").

New Testament example: **Ephesians 1:9-10** – *"He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to an **administration** suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth*" (NASB). (KJV, NKJV, ASV – "**dispensation**") (NRSV – "**plan**").

It refers to the religious system by which God dispenses His blessings (or curses!). He, as "master of the house," determines how He will manage His house. In one period He did so through covenants with patriarchs. In another period He did so by a covenant with Israel. And now, He deals with man through a covenant with Christians.

Covenant

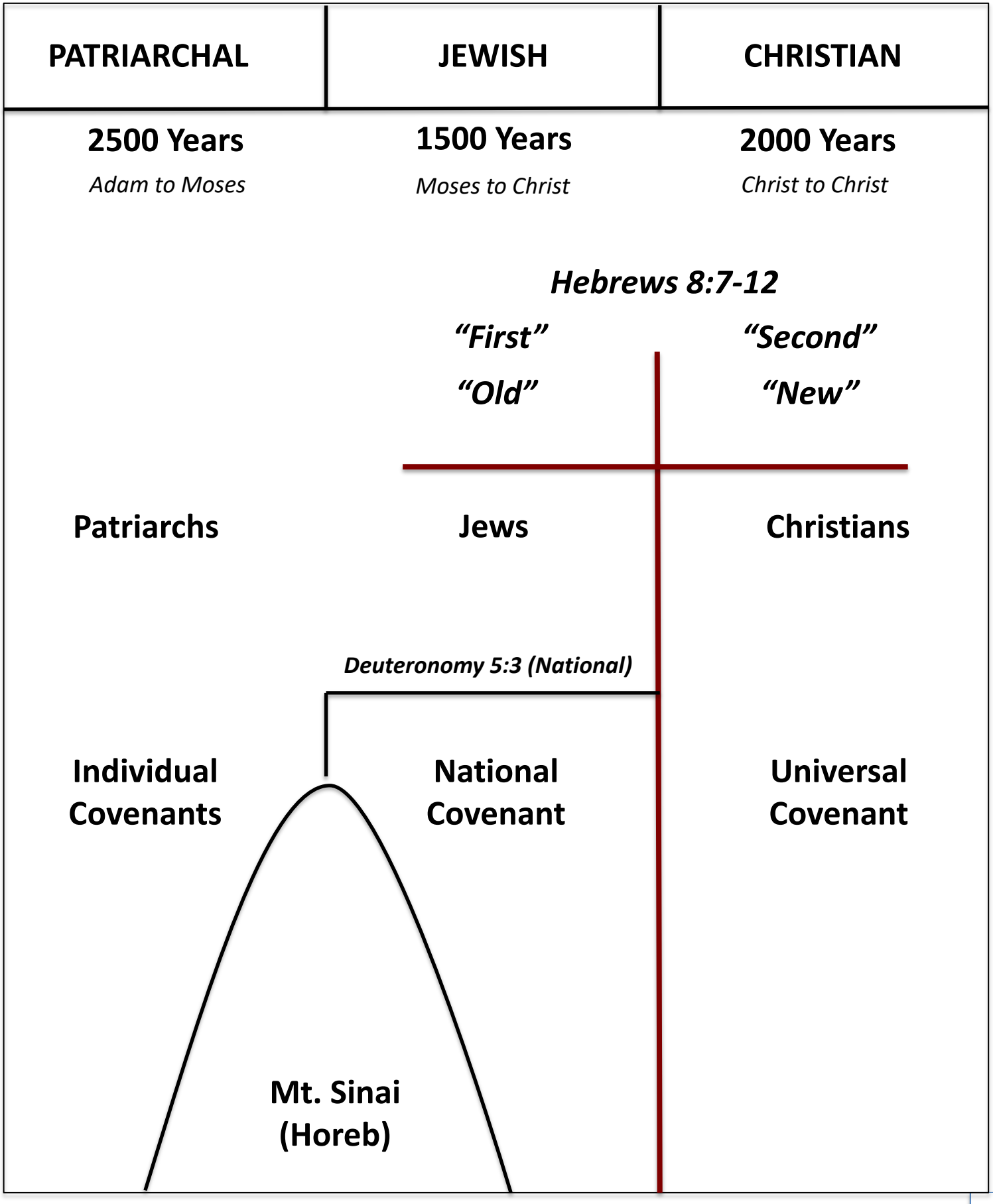
"A written agreement or promise usually under seal between two or more parties especially for the performance of some action" (Webster's, 1995).

Though not always written, covenants in the Bible are basically agreements between two people on what will or will not be done. (See **Genesis 21:22-34** – Abraham and Abimelech) (**Genesis 31:43-55** – Jacob and Laban).

However, when speaking of God's covenants, it is what God has purposed to do for man, independent of man's agreement. It may or may not have conditions to be met. That depends entirely on the will of God.

Note: "Covenant" is also used to refer to the conditions themselves, that is, those that must be met for the covenant to be fulfilled. Thus it sometimes refers to the commands of God. (**Deuteronomy 4:13; Leviticus 26:14-15**)

CHART #1 – THREE DISPENSATIONS



Patriarchs

A patriarch is the head of a family, tribe or nation. The Greek word *patriarches* is derived from *patria*, meaning "family", and *archo*, meaning "to rule." So, Abraham was a patriarch (***Hebrews 7:4***), since he was the head of his family. Jacob's sons were patriarchs (***Acts 7:8-9***), because they were heads of tribes. And David was a patriarch (***Acts 2:29***), since he was the head of a ruling family, through which God promised the Christ.

Note: While David lived during the time of the Jewish Dispensation, God still made a covenant with this patriarch. This demonstrates that each is not strictly governed by time and that both can exist simultaneously.

Patriarchal Dispensation

Putting our definitions together, the Patriarchal Dispensation represents God establishing covenants with people through His dealings with the head of that family, tribe or nation.

Noah – Genesis 9:8-17

-- God made a covenant with Noah, but it affected all of his descendants.
-- Even the animals, it seems, would be affected by virtue of their connection to Noah. ("with you" ***v.12***)
-- This was an Unconditional covenant. Noah cannot alter God's plan, nor can any of Noah's descendants.
-- Notice this patriarchal covenant included a "sign of the covenant." This serves as a constant reminder.

Abraham – Genesis 12:1-3,7

-- God made a covenant with Abraham that would affect his family for generations.
-- Even we are affected as descendants of Abraham according to faith (***Galatians 3:29***).
-- This patriarchal covenant will be investigated in detail in Lesson 3, but here are three elements:
-- Great Nation – Land of Canaan – All Families Blessed

Jewish Dispensation

People share in this covenant by virtue of being an Israelite (or Jew). Therefore it is often called the Jewish Dispensation. It may also be called "Mosaic Dispensation," since this national law was made through Moses.

-- ***Deuteronomy 5:3*** distinguishes this from patriarchal covenants.
-- God spoke to Moses, but the agreement was for all Israel (***Exodus 19:5-6; 24:7-8; 34:27-28***).
-- Notice the covenant included much more than the "Ten Commandments"
-- This dispensation with Israel included blessings and curses! (***Deuteronomy 29:1, 10-21***).
-- **Hebrews 8:7-13** – This passage teaches that God's covenant with Israel was temporary by design.

As already indicated, there were still Patriarchal Covenants during this time.

-- **David** – ***II Samuel 7:8-17*** (called a covenant in ***23:5***). God made an "everlasting covenant" with David.
-- **Abraham** – ***Galatians 3:17-19***, "added." The Jewish covenant did not nullify God's promise to Abraham.

The question might be asked*: "Why this covenant when God had already established a plan for the nation and for all mankind through Abraham?"* Good question. Consider ***Galatians 3:17-19***. It was added to bring law to the Israelite nation, but also to illuminate their sins and their need for a Savior!

Christian Dispensation

People share in this covenant by virtue of their relationship with Jesus Christ. For that reason, It is called the "Christian Dispensation." It could also be called "The Christ Dispensation," since the agreement is established through Jesus.

-- **Hebrews 8:7-12** – It is distinguished from the Jewish Dispensation.
-- It is different in regard to whom it is through and whom it includes.
-- Following this, God established no Patriarchal covenants with men.
-- Covenants to Abraham and David were fulfilled in Christ.

Everything about this Dispensation is revealed to us in the Word of God!

-- **The One** through whom it exists – ***Matthew 28:18-20***
-- **The Price** paid to ratify it – ***Luke 22:20; Hebrews 9:16-18, 26-28***
-- **Its Beginning** point – ***Luke 24:44-47***
-- **Its Ending** point – ***I Corinthians 15:22-24***
-- **Who** can be a part of it – ***Ephesians 1:9-10; 3:8-10; I Timothy 1:3-4***
  -- These three passages include the Greek word for "Dispensation."
-- **Conditions** associated with it – ***Colossians 1:21-23*** "IF"
-- **Blessings** for those who are a part of it! – ***Ephesians 1:7-14***

We will revisit and examine these things in Lesson 11.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Old Testament Library of Books: **39 Books**
-- 17 History (Genesis – Esther)
-- 5 Poetry (Job – Song of Solomon)
-- 17 Prophets (Isaiah – Malachi)

Another way to break down the Old Testament:
-- 5 Law (Genesis – Deuteronomy)
-- 12 History (Joshua – Esther)
-- 5 Poetry (Job – Song of Solomon)
-- 5 Major Prophets (Isaiah – Daniel)
-- 12 Minor Prophets (Hosea – Malachi)

New Testament Library of Books: 27 Books
-- 4 Biographical (Matthew – John)
-- 1 Historical (Acts)
-- 21 Doctrinal (Romans – Jude)
-- 1 Prophetic (Revelation)

Please note these titles are not absolutes. For instance, all New Testament books include doctrinal teachings, historical information, and prophecy! But these can help in memorization and getting a good Bible overview.

Review Questions:

1) **What is a "Dispensation"?**

2) **What is a "Covenant"?**

3) **What is a "Patriarch"?**

4) **List the Three Dispensations God has used to make covenants with people.**

5) **What is at least one Patriarchal covenant you remember from the Bible?**

6) **Why is the second dispensation called "Jewish"?**

7) **Why is the final dispensation commonly called "Christian"?**

8) **What marks the beginning of the Christian Dispensation?**

9) **Is the Christian Dispensation Conditional or Unconditional? Explain.**

Lesson 2 – Patriarchal Dispensation – *Creation to Babel*

Drill Questions:

1) **Which books of the Old Testament are commonly called:**

   "Law" -
   "History" -
   "Poetry" -
   "Prophecy" -

2) **Which books are commonly called "Major Prophets" and why?**

3) **Which books are commonly called "Minor Prophets"?**

4) **Which books of the New Testament are called:**

   "Biographical" -
   "Historical" -
   "Doctrinal" -
   "Prophetic" -

5) **What are the three dispensations in the Bible?**

6) **Why are they called that?**

7) **What person marks the beginning of each age?**

8) **How much time is covered by each dispensation?**

Creation (Genesis 1-2)

"Genesis" = "Origin, Beginning"

The book of Genesis is a book of beginnings. It is the beginning of The **Universe, Man, Marriage, Sin, Death, The Promise of Redemption, Sacrifices, and the Hebrew Nation**, just to name the most prominent.

"In The Beginning God…"

The word "God" appears in the first two chapters a total of 46 times! The phrase "God said," "God called," or the equivalent occurs 17 times.

Genesis 1:1,2,26; John 1:1-3; Psalm 90:1-2 – God is the creator of all things!
Psalm 33:6,9; 148:5; Hebrews 11:3 – Therefore He is worthy of honor!

All right thinking begins with "in the beginning God…" ***– Romans 1:18-32***.

The Creation Week

God created all physical things in one week. More specifically, in six 24-hour days, as He rested on the seventh day. There are not millions of years involved at any point or time. The evidence for 24-hour, literal days:

-- "**Day**" - "Day" (Hebrew word, *yom*) is sometimes used as a period of time irrespective of the hours involved (Genesis 2:4). However, "Outside of the Genesis 1 case in question, the two-hundred plus occurrences of *yom* preceded by ordinals [like "one" and "two" kse] all refer to a normal twenty-four hour day" (*Acts & Facts* May 1998).

-- "**Evening and Morning**" – These terms consistently refers to a literal day. This is true throughout Moses' writings – ***Genesis 30:16; Exodus 12:6; Exodus 18:13***. Assigning a figurative meaning would be an unfounded assumption.

-- **Exodus 20:8-11** – In this passage, the words "day"/"days" occur six times, twice to refer to the creation week. Is it credible that the fourth and fifth occurrence in the passage would mean millions of years, while all other usages are literal, solar days?

Man made in God's Image

Unique to all creation, man has been made in the image of the Godhead (***Genesis 1:26-27***). That is to say, we have an eternal spirit! (***Ecclesiastes 12:7***).

This truth has implications on topics such as Murder, Abortion and Euthanasia.

Furthermore, man is the product of God, not the other way around (***Acts 17:28-29***). We must worship Him for who He is and because we are His!

CHART #2 – TIMELINE

PATRIARCHAL DISPENSATION

Adam

1,650 Years	Gen. 1-2 – Creation Gen. 3-5 – Sin Gen. 6-10 – The Flood	Time Covered: **2500** Years	Genesis 1
850 Years	Gen. 11-50 – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob Exodus 1-19 – The Exodus	*Abraham – c. 2000 BC* *Exodus – c. 1500 BC*	Exodus 19

Moses

JEWISH DISPENSATION

Moses

1 Year	*Exodus 19 – Numbers 10* – Mount Sinai – Law		Exodus 19
40 Years	*Numbers 11 – Deuteronomy 34* – Wilderness Wanderings		
375 Years	*Joshua, Judges, I Samuel 1-9* – Canaan and the Judges		
650 Years	United Kingdom – 120 Years Divided Kingdom – 325 Years Babylonian Captivity – 70 Years Return – 135 Years	(David – c. 1000 BC) (Israel and Judah – c. 931 BC) (Three Attacks – 606, 597,586 BC) (Three Returns – 536, 458, 445 BC)	
400 Years	Silence – Time between the Testaments	Time Covered: **1500** Years	
33 Years	Matthew Mark Luke John Acts 1	Jesus Birth – c. 3 BC Jesus Death – c. 30 AD	Acts 1

Christ

CHRISTIAN DISPENSATION

Pentecost

Church Established – c. 30 AD (Acts 2) Jerusalem Meeting – c. 50 AD (Acts 15) Paul's First Imprisonment – c. 61-63 AD (Acts 28) End of New Testament Revelation – c. 68-95 AD (Revelation)	Time Covered: **c. 2000** Years	Acts Revelation

Judgment

The Fall of Man (Genesis 3-5)

STANDARD God's law, and the consequences for violating the law, is given **– *Genesis 2:15-17.***

SIN Man violates the law of God **– *Genesis 3:1-6; I John 3:4; I John 5:17.***

SATAN Satan is the author of sin **– *Genesis 3:4; Matthew 4:3; John 8:44; II Corinthians 11:3; James 1:13.***

SUFFER Sin carries heavy consequences:

Universal consequences, due to Adam's sin: **– *Genesis 2:17; 3:14-19.***

Snakes – On your belly
Satan – Enmity with the Seed of woman
Females – Pain in Childbirth
Males – A Life of Labor
Mankind – Physical Death

Personal, if we choose to sin: **– *Genesis 2:17; Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 3:23; 5:12; 6:23.***

All Who Sin – Spiritual Death: severed from a relationship with God.

SAVIOR A Savior is our only chance **– *Genesis 3:15; John 1:1-5, 14, 17; Galatians 4:4.***

SACRIFICE A Price must be paid to effect forgiveness **– *Genesis 4:3-5; Hebrews 11:4; 12:24***

The Flood (Genesis 6-10)

The cause of the global flood was the exceeding wickedness of mankind (***Genesis 6:5***).

God still, however, extended grace and mercy to all who would obey Him. Noah, a righteous man, believed in God and honored God through obedience (***Genesis 6:8-9; Hebrews 11:7; I Peter 3:20-21***).

The rainbow was a sign of an unconditional covenant that God made with Noah, and by virtue of our relationship as his descendants, all of us as well **(*Genesis 9:8-17*).**

"It won't be water, but fire next time" **– *II Peter 3:5-7*.** We would do well to learn the lessons taught to us by Adam and Eve, as well as the people who lived for the 1650 years leading up to the flood. God's will still exists, now in the form of the New Covenant. Sin is still an option for you and me. Satan is working diligently to help us choose poorly. When we choose sin, suffering is the natural outcome, even the loss of our souls. Jesus gave His life to save us from that penalty. His sacrifice makes forgiveness possible. However, we must have the faith of Noah!

The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)

Because the people communicated "in the same language," "nothing they purpose to do will be impossible for them" (***Genesis 11:6***). Simply by "confusing their language" (***Genesis 11:7-8***), God stopped the building of the tower and dispersed the people in every direction. This marks the beginning of varied nations around the world.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Genesis – "Beginning" – The seed bed of doctrine

The Existence and Majesty of God
-- Genesis 1-2 – "God" mentioned 46 times**.**

Dignity and Accountability of Man
-- Genesis 2-3 – Responsible to obey God.

Monogamous, Heterosexual Marriage
-- Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:3-9

Sin, its Nature and Consequences
-- Genesis 3-4 – Not just Adam and Eve, but even after.

Redeemer! Deliverance! Victory!
-- Genesis 3:15; 12:3; 49:10 – Jesus is coming!

Development of the Hebrew Nation
-- Genesis 14:3; 46:27 - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.

Relationship of Genesis to Christ

Genesis	**Christ**
Adam	***Romans 5:14-19***
Seed of Woman	***Galatians 4:4***
Abel's "Blood"	***Hebrews* 12:24**
Water of Flood	***I Peter 3:21***
Abraham's Seed	***Galatians 3:8-9,14,16,29***
Promised Land	***Hebrews 4:1-9***
Melchizedek	***Hebrews 7:1-17***
Sarah-Hagar	***Galatians 4:21-31***
Isaac	***Hebrews 11:17-18***
Jacob "Israel"	***Galatians 6:16***
Judah	***Revelation 5:5***

Genealogies in Genesis

Genesis 5 – From Adam, through Seth, down to Noah and his sons.

Genesis 10-11 – Descendants of Shem, Ham and Japheth, leading through Shem's line down to Abram and Sarai.

7 Days of Creation (An easy way for the kids to learn)

Day 1 - Light … *snap your fingers*
Day 2 - Heavens … *point up*
Day 3 - Dry land, vegetation … *point down*
Day 4 - Sun, moon, stars … *point up and move your finger all around*
Day 5 - Fowl, fish … *point up and down at the same time*
Day 6 - Animals, man … *point to yourself*
Day 7 – God Rested …*put hands together by your ear, as if napping.*

Review Questions:

1) **What are the five divisions of the patriarchal dispensation?**
2) **What books and chapters cover the patriarchal age?**
3) **How much time is covered by the patriarchal age?**
4) **What does the book of Genesis mean and what is the book basically about?**
5) **What are the first five words of the Bible?**
6) **What is a primary reason why man shall not murder?**
7) **List some consequences of sin seen in Genesis 3-5.**
8) **Why is Genesis 3:15 such an important verse for us?**

Lesson 3 – Patriarchal Dispensation – *Abraham to Moses*

Drill Questions:

1) **How can the Patriarchal Dispensation be broken into 5 sections? What book and chapters cover each?**

2) **Who was the first man and woman? Why did they die?**

3) **What is the penalty we all suffer for choosing sin?**

4) **Where is the first promise of a Redeemer in the Bible?**

5) **Where is the second promise of a Redeemer in the Bible? (tougher one)**

6) **Who were Cain, Abel and Seth and what do you know about their story?**

7) **Who were Noah's three sons and through which one did the Messiah come?**

Abraham (c. 2000 B.C.)

Abraham is often called "the father of the Hebrew nation." In ***Genesis 14:13***, the text says: "Abraham, the Hebrew." Therefore, "Hebrew" is specifically a descendant of the physical lineage of Abraham (***II Corinthians 11:22***).

Note: The term "Jew" is first used in II Kings 16:6, and ultimately "Jew," "Hebrew," and "Israelite" became synonymous with the same lineage.

Abraham is also called "the father of all who believe…," (***Romans 4:11-13).*** This is by virtue of his incredible faith in God, and how God reckoned him as righteous because of that faithfulness, not according to the Law of Moses.

-- ***Hebrews 11:8-10*** – He left his homeland to obey God.
-- ***Hebrews 11:13-19*** – He offered his son of promise on the altar.
-- ***Romans 4:3, 19-22*** – When God made promises, Abraham believed God!

3 Promises to Abraham (***Genesis 12:1-3***)

-- ***Genesis 12:1*** – **The Land Promise** (see verse 7)
-- ***Genesis 12:2*** – **Great Nation Promise** (physical descendants)
-- ***Genesis 12:3*** – **The Spiritual Promise** (Christ – ***Galatians 3:16, 29***)

In connection with the three promises, three questions should be asked:
-- *Has this promise been fulfilled?*
-- *Is this promise conditional or unconditional?*
-- *How does this promise and its fulfillment connect to me?*

Great Nation

-- This promise was fulfilled by God in Egypt (c. 1500 B.C.).

- When Jacob travelled to Egypt, they were only 70 (***Genesis 46:3, 27***).
- After 400 years in Egypt, Hebrews filled the land (***Exodus 1:7, 9, 20***).
- Moses later reflected on God's work (***Deuteronomy 26:5***).

-- This promise was conditional upon the faithfulness of the nation.

- Blessings were conditional upon obedience (***Deuteronomy 6:10-15***).
- Moses reminds them of the conditions (***Deuteronomy 8:19-20***).
- Israel was special to God, but must stay faithful (***26:16-19***).

-- The Lord's Church is an Anti-Type of the Hebrew Nation.

- ***I Peter 2:1-2, 9-10*** – We are now the blessed nation of God!
- ***Galatians 6:16*** – Christ's Church is "the Israel of God."
- Like Israel in the past, the Church enjoys God's special favor (***Ephesians 1:1-14***), and is ruled by God's perfect law (***James 1:25***).
- Like the Hebrew nation, blessings are conditional (***Romans 11:17-23***).

Land Promise

-- This promise was fulfilled by God through Joshua (c. 1400 B.C.)

- After Moses' death, Joshua encouraged the people to take the land of Canaan (***Joshua 1:1-6***).
- Following 7 years of fighting, the Hebrews received the land. The promise was fulfilled (***Joshua 21:43-45***).

-- This promise was conditional upon the faithfulness of the nation.

- Joshua could not have been clearer on this point: (***Joshua 23:14-16***).
- At times, Israel would fail to drive out all the nations, and part of their land would be lost.
- Though King David (c.1000 BC) recovered it, the Jews were eventually driven out due to unfaithfulness.
    - Note: In 605 B.C., King Nebuchadnezzar took them from the land for 70 years.
    - They eventually returned to Jerusalem, but never had possession of Canaan as in David's days.

-- Heaven is an Anti-Type of the Land of Canaan.

- ***Hebrews 4:8-11*** – *"There remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God."*
- Similar to Israel's entrance to Canaan, our entrance to Heaven is only possible by the grace of God.
- However, this Sabbath rest is conditional on obedient faith in Christ (***Hebrews 3:12-14***).

The Messianic Promise

-- This promise was fulfilled by God through Jesus Christ (c. 30 A.D.).

- ***Acts 3:13-15, 25-26*** – Jesus, God's Servant, is the Seed through which all may be blessed!
- ***Galatians 3:16-18, 26-29*** – The Law was added because of Israel's sins, but it did not invalidate the covenant God made with Abraham. That is: blessings from God through Jesus Christ!

- The main focus of this covenant was Christ's redemptive work from sin and is fulfilled in the church. The first two parts of Abraham's promises were typical of the church and the heavenly rest awaiting those in it; the third promise was exclusively in reference to the spiritual blessings enjoyed in the church of Christ.

-- This promise is Unconditional, in terms of Candidates.

- Regardless of nationality, background, or manner of life, all can be saved by Jesus ***– Ephesians 2:11-18***.
- What began as taught to Jews (***Acts 2***), was ultimately taught to Gentiles as well (***Acts 10***).

-- This promise is Conditional, in terms of Obedient Faith

- Abraham was justified by his willingness to believe in God and obey the will of God.
- Christians are to "follow in the steps of the faith of our father Abraham" (***Romans 1:5; 4:12***).

Thus All 3 Promises Have Been Fulfilled

-- The Great Nation promise was fulfilled after 400 years in Egypt (c. 1500 B.C.).

-- The Land promise was fulfilled after 7 years of conquest by Joshua (c. 1400 B.C.).

-- The Seed promise was fulfilled after the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus (c. 30 A.D.).

From Abraham to Moses

Ishmael

-- Ishmael was Abraham's first son, born to Sarah's handmaid Hagar (***Genesis 16***).
-- He and his mother were driven out after Isaac was born to Sarah (***Genesis 21:8-13***).
-- His descendants became a "great nation" and occupied the area now known as Saudi Arabia (***Genesis 17:20***).

Isaac

-- *Born after Ishmael, and born to Sarah, Isaac was the son God promised Abraham* ***(Genesis 17:15-19***).
-- It was through Isaac that God's original "Great Nation" promise would be fulfilled (***Genesis 15:1-5***).
-- In his youth, he became the offering God required from Abraham. (***Genesis 22:1-2, 7-8, 12-14***).
God provided a lamb to die in his place. Isaac is a type for Christ, who died as a sacrifice, offered by His Father, with no lamb to replace Him.

Jacob

-- Jacob was one of the twin boys born to Isaac and Rebekah. God's nation promise would come through him.
-- 12 sons! [**Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Napthali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph, Benjamin**].
Only the final two were birthed by his beloved wife, **Rachel**. Six were from his other wife, **Leah.**
-- God changed Jacob's name to Israel (***Genesis 35:9-12***). Hence the term: "children of Israel."

Esau

-- Esau was the twin brother of Jacob (***Genesis 25:19-26***).
-- He was older than Jacob, but Jacob stole his birthright and later his blessing from Jacob (***Genesis 25:27-34***).
-- Bitterness ensued, and Jacob left town for 20 years. When he returned, the two reconciled (***Genesis 33:4***).

Joseph

-- Joseph was a son of Jacob. The story of his brothers selling him into slavery, and his rise to power in Egypt, is documented over the course of about 14 chapters in the book of Genesis (**Genesis 37-50**).
-- While Joseph faced incredible injustices, God blessed him. When he faced his brothers at the end of the story, even after all they had done, he understood the amazing providence of God (***Genesis 50:20***).
--Joseph brought his whole family to Egypt, 70 in all, and thus began 400 years in Egypt. Over this period, they became a huge nation of millions of Jews. Unfortunately, the Egyptians kept them in check as slaves.

Moses (c. 1500 B.C.)

-- Moses was an Israelite raised by the daughter of Pharaoh (***Exodus 2:5-10***).
-- At the age of 40, he tried to protect his enslaved people, but he was rejected (***Exodus 2:11-15***).
-- Moses fled Pharaoh and lived in the land of Midian for 40 more years (***Exodus 2:16-22***).

-- But God heard the cries of Israel, and He appointed Moses to deliver them from Pharaoh (***Exodus 2:24–3:10***).
-- Following a series of excuses, Moses obeyed God. God provided Moses' brother, Aaron, for support. (***7:1***)

-- The Exodus confirmed Moses as God's Prophet.
- Firstly, by fulfilled prophecy. All that Moses said came to pass (***Exodus 3:16-22***).
    - From the deliverance to the miracles, the plundering of Egypt to worship at Mount Horeb.
- Secondly, by the miracles that God worked through and around Moses (***Exodus 4:1-9, 30-31; 14:31***).

The Exodus

"Exodus" = "Departure" or "Going out." This is the "exit" from Egypt.

The Ten Plagues

God used the ten plagues to demonstrate Himself to be the one, true God. He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – ***Exodus 3:6***. And He is the God who has authorized Moses to lead the people out of slavery.

-- This was demonstrated to Israel – ***Exodus 4:5; 10:1-2***
-- This was demonstrated to Egypt and All the Earth – ***Exodus 8:10,22; 9:16***

1. **Water to Blood** – *7:17-25*
2. **Frogs** – *8:1-15*
3. **Lice** – *8:16-19*
4. **Flies** – *8:20-32*
5. **Pestilence** – *9:1-7*
6. **Boils** – *9:8-12* (This is when the magicians gave up.)
7. **Hail** – *9:13-35*
8. **Locusts** – *10:1-20*
9. **Darkness** – *10:21-29*
10. **Death of Firstborn** – *11:1 – 12:36* (Pharaoh gives in.)

The Passover

Just before the final plague, God instructed each family to sacrifice an unblemished, one year old, lamb. Some of the blood was to be put on the doorpost of their homes. If it was found there, God would "pass over" that house, and no loss of life would be incurred (***Exodus 12:1-7***).

Even before the plague came, passing over Israelite houses, and striking every Egyptian household, God established a feast of remembrance (***12:14-20***).

-- The Passover feast was observed by Israel for generations.
-- The Passover lamb is a type or shadow of Christ – ***I Corinthians 5:7-8.***
-- Death passes us over by the blood of Christ, and we remember that fact by a memorial God established: The Lord's Supper (***Luke 22:14-20***).

The Song of Moses

Following the departure from Egypt and the Jews crossing the Red Sea on dry ground, Moses and the Israelites sang a beautiful song of victory – ***Exodus 15***.

This song was sung anew in heaven by those who came through death and were delivered unto the glorious blessings of God! – ***Revelation 15:2-3***.

Israel is now an independent nation. Following the Red Sea deliverance, they came to Mount Sinai in the "third month" after the Exodus (***Exodus 19:1***).

Review Questions:

1) **Starting with Abraham, how far can you track his family tree forward, including wives?**

2) **What three great promises were made to Abram and where are they in the Bible?**

3) **How many of these promises have been fulfilled and when was each fulfilled?**

4) **What books and chapters cover the story of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph?**

5) **Name Jacob's 12 sons.**

6) **What does Joseph's story teach us about God's providential care?**

7) **What made Moses the right choice to lead the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage?**

Lesson 4 – Jewish Dispensation – *The Giving of the Law*

Drill Questions:

1) **What are the 3 Promises God made to Abraham?**

2) **When and where were each of these three fulfilled?**

3) **How did Jacob's family of 70 come to live in Egypt?**

4) **How many years did the Jews live in Egypt? And who led them out?**

5) **Who was the deliverer's brother? His sister?**

6) **What does the word "exodus" mean and what is the book of exodus about?**

7) **What is the work of a "prophet"? How does that differ from a "priest"?**

8) **Break down the Patriarchal Age into 5 sections.**

Giving of the Law

-- **Location –** Mt. Sinai (Horeb).

-- **Time** – Israel stayed about one year **(*Exodus 19:1; Numbers 10:11-13*).**

-- **The Law**

- Moses was the mediator of the covenant. The law was given through him and to Israel. This is why the dispensation is sometimes referred to as "Mosaical" (***Galatians 3:19; Deuteronomy 5:5***).
- "Law of Moses" = "Law of God." Because it is from God and through Moses, these terms are used interchangeably (***Nehemiah 8:1,8***).
- The Law was much more than just "The 10 Commandments." It began with 10: ***Exodus 20:1-17***. But the law ultimately included ALL of the instructions God gave to Moses (***Deuteronomy 31:24-26***). In ***Nehemiah 6:14***, instruction from Leviticus is considered "the law."
- In fact, due to their relationship to the law given through Moses, all of the Old Testament books came to be called "the Law."
  - ***John 10:34*** ***(Psalm 82:6)***
  - ***I Corinthians 14:21*** ***(Isaiah 28:11)***
  - ***Romans 3:9-19*** ***(Psalms and Isaiah)***

Five Questions about the Law of Moses

1) To whom was the Law given?

- The law was given to the nation of Israel.
  (Exodus 19:1-3; Deuteronomy 5:1-3)

2) Why was the Law given to Israel?

- "It was added because of transgressions" (***Galatians 3:19***).
- It exposed the sin of Israel and their need for a Savior.
- **Galatian 3:22-24 –** It trained them to yearn for Jesus.

3) How long was it intended to last?

- It was to last until Christ's reign began! (***Galatians 3:24-25***).
- In fact, it was temporary by design (***Hebrews 8:7-13***).

4) Are we under the Law of Moses today?

- We most certainly are not under that Law (***Romans 7:1-7***).
- Our sanctification comes through Jesus ***(Hebrews 10:9-10***).
- To live by that Law is to sever from Christ (***Galatians 5:4***).

5) So why should we continue to study the Old Testament?

- Christians learn even more about Jesus (***Romans 15:1-4***).
- It includes principles that teach us about God (***I Cor. 9:8-10***).
- We learn from Israel's mistakes (***I Corinthians 10:1-12***).

Chart #3 – JEWISH DISPENSATION

National Covenant
Israel (Jews)

Time Covered:
1500 Years

MOSES

1) **Mt. Sinai – The Giving of the Law** — ***1 Year***

Exodus 19 – Numbers 10

2) **Wilderness Wandering** — ***40 Years***

Numbers 11 – Deuteronomy 34

3) **Canaan – The Judges** — ***375 Years***

Joshua – I Samuel 9

4) **Kings** — ***1050 Years***

Undivided Kingdom – 120 Years
Divided Kingdom – 325 Years
Babylonian Captivity – 70 Years
Return and Afterward – 135 Years
Silence of Scripture – 400 Years

I Samuel 10 - Malachi

5) **The Birth and Life of Jesus** — ***33 Years***

Matthew – Acts 1

CHRIST

The Tabernacle

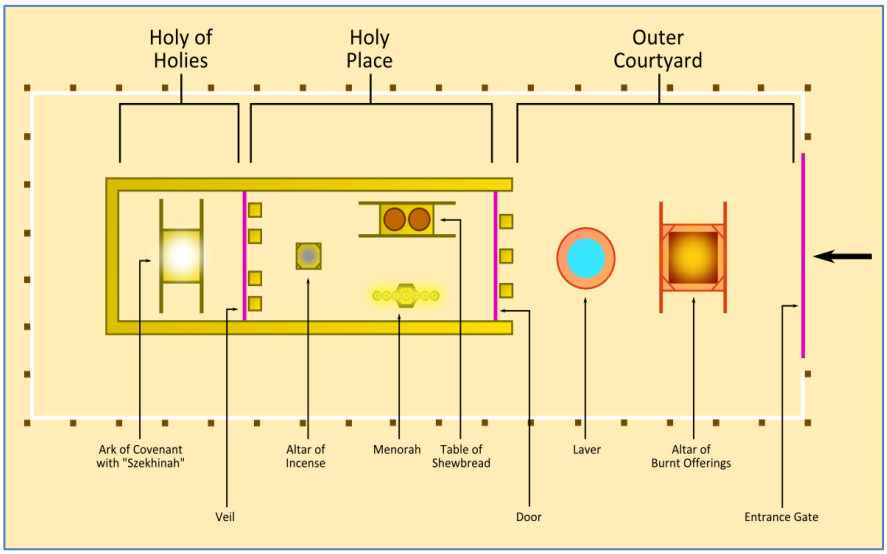
God's Command is given – ***Exodus 25:8-9.***

Every detail was important – ***Exodus 27:5-8***.

It was erected within a Year – ***Exodus 40:17.***

Hebrews 9:1-5 gives specific details.

God was very clear in commanding that the tabernacle be built "according to the pattern" (***Hebrews 8:5***). Moses focused on doing it just as God commanded – ***Exodus 40:16-32***.



Wherever the Jews travelled, the tabernacle was taken along with them – ***Numbers 10:11, 17, 21.***

From the tabernacle instruction, two important points endure for the Christian:

-- <u>Pattern is important</u>! God gives His will and that becomes the enduring standard – ***II Timothy 1:13-14***.

-- <u>The Tabernacle was a shadow</u>. The true substance is Jesus, our High Priest, as He has ascended into the holy of holies, heaven, to go before God on behalf of Christians – ***Hebrews 8:5; 9:6-11***.

The Priesthood

The tribe of Levi was set aside by God to include priests for His service (***Deuteronomy 18:1-2***).
Priests offered sacrifices from man to God (**Hebrews 5:1**). The Levites who were not engaged in that specific work were servants in and around the tabernacle, including the moving of the items from one location to another.

Aaron and His Sons

Aaron and his sons were the priests from the tribe of Levi, and the other Levites assisted them – ***Numbers 3:1-10***.
Aaron's sons, as priests, could enter the holy place and serve – **Exodus 27:21.**
But only the High Priest, and only once per year, entered into the holy of holies, behind the veil – ***Hebrews 9:6-7.***

"Levites"

Reuben Simeon **Levi** **Judah** Dan Naphtali
Gad Asshur Issachar Zebulun Joseph Benjamin

Gershon Kohath Merari

Amram Ishar Hebron Uzziel

Moses **Aaron** Korah
High Priest ***(Numbers 16)***

Jesus Christ

Tribe of Judah – ***Matthew 1:1-2***
Our High Priest – ***Hebrews 4:14-16***

He is our High Priest through a New Law, not according to the Law of Moses (***Hebrews 7:11-14***).

"Leviticus"

As the title suggests, this is a book pertaining to the Levites.

It can be broken down into three sections:

-- **Sacrifices offered at the altar.**	**Leviticus 1-7**
-- **Sanctification of the priests.**	**Leviticus 8-10**
-- **Statutes the priests were to know and teach.**	**Leviticus 11-27**

Numbers 3-4 give great detail into the duties of the Levites.

Aaron's sons, the priests, not only officiated at the altar, but were charged to be teachers of the Law to the Israelites – ***Leviticus 10:8-11; Ezekiel 22:26.***

All Levites were supported by sacrifices and tithes ***– Numbers 18:21-24.***

ADDITIONAL NOTES

A great way to remember the Old Testament is to break each book of history down into a series of topics, while listing the chapters beside each topic.

GENESIS ("Beginning")

-- **Creation**	***Genesis 1-2***
-- **The Fall of Man**	***Genesis 3-5***
-- **The Flood**	***Genesis 6-11***
-- **Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph**	***Genesis 12-50***

EXODUS ("Going Out")

-- **The Exodus from Egypt**	***Exodus 1-19***
-- **The National Law**	***Exodus 20-24***
-- **The Tabernacle**	***Exodus 25-40***

LEVITICUS (see above)

NUMBERS (Census Taken)

-- **Concluding Events at Sinai**	**Numbers 1-10**
-- **The Wilderness Wanderings**	**Numbers 11-21**
-- **Events at the Plains of Moab**	**Numbers 22-34**

DEUTERONOMY (2nd Giving of the Law)

-- **Moses preaches in Plains of Moab**	**Deuteronomy 1-34**

JOSHUA (Leader of the People)

-- **Conquest of the Land of Canaan**	**Joshua 1-12**
-- **Division of the Land of Canaan**	**Joshua 13-24**

Review Questions:

1) **The Law of Moses was given at what mountain?**

2) **What are other names the Bible uses for the Law of Moses?**

3) **Why was the Law of Moses given to Israel?**

4) **If the law of Moses is given between Exodus 19 and Numbers 10, why do we consider the whole Old Testament to be "the Law"?**

5) **What was the "tabernacle"?**

6) **From which tribe of Israel did priests come? And what were their jobs?**

7) **Explain the special job that a High Priest alone possessed?**

8) **Is Christ our High Priest? Explain what that means.**

Lesson 5 – Jewish Dispensation – *From Moses to Samuel*

Drill Questions:

1) **Break down the book of Genesis into 4 sections.**

2) **Break down the book of Exodus into 3 sections.**

3) **What does "Leviticus" mean? And how can you break down the book into 3 sections?**

4) **What is the work of a "priest"? From what tribe did the priests come? From what family did the High Priest come?**

5) **From which tribe did Jesus come? If not Levi, then how can He be High Priest?**

6) **What books in the Bible cover the one year that Israel was at Mt. Sinai?**

7) **What was the "tabernacle" and what was its purpose?**

The First Census

-- The book of **"Numbers"** is so called because the people of Israel are counted twice in the book: once at the beginning and once at the end.

-- **Numbers 1:2-3, 46 –** There were **603,550** men, 20 years old and upward, able to go to war. Likely the whole nation numbered a couple of million.

The Wilderness Wandering (40 Years)

-- This dark time was caused by a lack of faithfulness on the part of the Israelite nation. Only 2 of the 12 spies stood up for God's power! (***Numbers 13:1-2; 13:30-32; 14:26-35; 26:63-65***)

-- **603,548** soldiers died in the wilderness for their lack of courage! Only two of these men lived: Joshua and Caleb. ***Matthew 7:13-14*** – Jesus told His disciples that victory is about faithfulness, not volume of people.

-- **Deuteronomy 8:1-2, 16-18 –** Moses later recounted that the Wilderness Wanderings were a time of "testing." In the New Covenant, times of difficulty and "testing" prove our faith **– I Peter 1:6-7**; **Hebrews 3:7-4:11.**

-- **Selected Events in the book of Numbers**

- **Korah's Rebellion** **(*Numbers 16)***
- **Aaron's Rod Budding** **(*Numbers 17)***
- **Moses Disobeys God** **(*Numbers 20 – see Deuteronomy 32:48-52)***
- **Fiery Serpent** **(*Numbers 21 – compare John 3:14-16)***
- **Balaam's Advice** ***(Numbers 22-24 – see II Peter 2:15-16)***
- **Baal-Peor** **(*Numbers 25)***
- **2 ½ Tribes Settle** ***(Numbers 32)***

The Second Census

-- **Numbers 26:51** – After burying an average of 40 soldiers per day over the course of 40 years, a new generation has arisen. There are now **601,730** men, at least twenty years of age and able to go to war.

Deuteronomy – "Second Giving of the Law"

-- The word "Deuteronomy" is derived from the Greek language and combines two ideas*: deuteros*, second + *nomos*, law. So this is the second time Moses teaches the Law (***Deuteronomy 1:3-5; 4:44-46; 5:1; 29:1).***

-- Read the following verses and then answer the question that follows: (***Deuteronomy 4:1-6, 40; 8:1, 11; 29:9, 29).***

What would you say was the purpose of Moses' sermon?

-- Note: **Deuteronomy 34** records Moses' death. So how could Moses have written this letter? A "colophon" is an inscription placed at the end of a book, by another writer, providing additional information. It is often used to unite its narrative to the succeeding book. (See **Joshua 1:1**).

Joshua

-- Joshua was the leader who succeeded Moses (***Numbers 27:15-23***).

-- The book of Joshua opens with Joshua's appeal to Israel to act with courage (***Joshua 1:6-9***).

-- In about 1400 BC, he led the people across the Jordan into the land of Canaan. The book is a documentation of the 7 years it took for the Conquest and Division of the land of Canaan.

- ***Joshua 12*** – Lists the kings defeated during the conquest of the land.

- ***Joshua 13*** – The division of the land begins among the tribes of Israel.

-- See Chart #3 **on Page 15** to identify where this event fits along the timeline of the Jewish Dispensation.

-- One of the unique, and often discussed, events in the book of Joshua is the interaction the spies have with Rahab, the harlot (**Joshua 2:1-21; 6:22-25**). *How do you answer questions asked about her deception?*

-- **Land Promise Fulfilled – (*Joshua 21:43-44; 23:14*) –** God made a promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:7 concerning Canaan: "To your descendants I will give this land." While Solomon may have later expanded its borders, Joshua's possession of the land served as the fulfillment of God's promise. This is important due to modern false doctrine that is still looking for God's people to possess physical Canaan.

-- **Joshua's Farewell Address**. Just before his death, and in the first days of Israel as owners of Canaan, Joshua issues a challenge to the nation of Israel to remain faithful to God (**Joshua 24:15**). This still stands today as a challenge to all families to remain devoted to God and to raise children who know and honor Him.

Judges

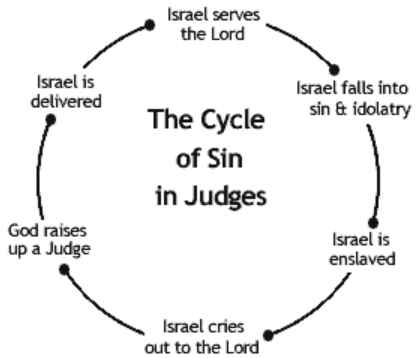
-- "Judges" as leaders over Israel was a choice God made – ***Deuteronomy 16:18-20***.

- *"an elected or appointed official with authority to hear and decide cases in a court of law"* (Webster's Dictionary). This is similar to the description taught by Moses for the nation. In this design, God was the King and these people carried out localized oversight.

- While the judges may have decided cases of civil concern (***Judges 4:4-5; I Samuel 7:15-17***), it is their mission as deliverers from the oppression of the enemy that is emphasized in the book of Judges (***Judges 2:15-18; 3:9, 15, 31***). However, it was not God's original plan for them to be needed as deliverers! Had the people followed God, judges would have simply been legislators of peace.

-- **A Devastating Cycle** – More than a dozen times throughout the approximate 375 year history of the Judges, the people found themselves in a vicious cycle, caused by a lack of faith and trust and honor for God!

- Example: **SIN (6:1)**
SUFFERING (6:2-6)
SUPPLICATION (6:6-7)
SALVATION (7:22-25)



- Chapters 17-21 represent the darkest time in Jewish history, as "everyone did what was right in his own eyes."

Ruth

-- Ruth's story is a digression from the historical development of the Hebrew nation. Her story is included at this point in the Old Testament because it occurred "*during the time of the judges*" (***Ruth 1:1***).

-- "*…the new-found faith of a Moabite girl, and her sacrificial love for her mother-in-law are woven into the great tapestry of God's plan of salvation. For descended from Ruth is King David, and from the line of David comes the Messiah himself*" (Eerderman's Handbook of the Bible, p. 226).

-- From a probable future of idolatry in Moab to the people of God and the lineage of Christ, Ruth's love for Naomi led her to great faith in God and a wonderful story of redemption. Here is a brief layout:

- Due to famine, Naomi's family moves to Moab. Her son marries Ruth. (***Ruth 1:1-5***)
- Naomi's husband and both of her sons die. She prepares to go back to the land of Judah. (***1:6-8***)
- Ruth refuses to leave Naomi's side, so they both travel back to Bethlehem. (***1:15-18***)
- Boaz, an Israelite, takes note of Ruth's good character. (***2:8-13***)
- He desires to marry Ruth, but she is to be redeemed by a closer relative. (***3:12-13***)
- The closer relative chooses not to redeem her and Boaz marries her. (***4:5-13***).
- Ruth has a son named Obed. He is the father of Jesse. Jesse is the father of David. (***4:17***)

Samuel

-- **I Samuel 1-9** records the birth and life of Samuel as prophet and judge over Israel. Samuel was not only the last judge, but was chosen by God to appoint the first two kings of the monarchy: Saul and David. The rest of the book of I Samuel records the reign of each of those two kings. Samuel thus ties the period of the judges to the period of the Kings. (Note **Acts 13:17-23**).

- I Samuel 1-2 – The story of Hannah's prayer for a son and dedication of the son to the Lord's work.

- I Samuel 8:1-9 – The period in history where Israel demanded a king (other than God)!

-- They demanded such in part because of the sinfulness of Samuel's sons.

-- They also did so because of their desire to be like the nations around them.

-- God considered this to be a rejection of His rule (***8:6-8***).

-- Such was a recurring problem through Israel's history: creating change instead of going back to the Pattern of God's word and finding godly people to do things God's way!

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Numbering the Judges – Depending on the following factors, any number between 12 and 18 can be used as the final total of judges who led Israel. 1) Include or exclude the usurper Abimelech (killed 70 of his brothers); 2) Include only those in the book of Judges or also those in Samuel (Eli and Samuel); 3) Include or exclude Samuels' two sons (Joel and Abijah); 4) include Barak (Deborah called him to serve while she was Judge).

Why are Eli and Samuel not included in the book of Judges? (***I Samuel 4:18; 7:15***). There is no certain answer. Possibly because Eli was viewed primarily for his work as high priest (***I Samuel 1:9***), and Samuel was remembered more for his work as a prophet (***I Samuel 3:19-21***), whereas most judges were raised for other purposes.

ADDITIONAL NOTES (continued)

Review the Timeline Chart on page 7.

-- Take special note of the amount of time from Adam (Genesis 1) to David (I Samuel 10). Our study has so far covered 3,000+ years!

-- Also be certain you can explain the difference between the Patriarchal and the Jewish Dispensations and ultimately the Christian Age.

-- Note these Major Person/Time markers:

- **Adam** **4000 B.C.**
- **Abraham** **2000 B.C.**
- **Moses** **1500 B.C.**
- **David** **1000 B.C.**
- **Christ** **0 B.C.**
- **Us** **2000 A.D.**

Take the time to Memorize the major events of each Old Testament book:

GENESIS ("Beginning")
- **-- Creation** ***Genesis 1-2***
- **-- The Fall of Man** ***Genesis 3-5***
- **-- The Flood** ***Genesis 6-11***
- **-- Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph** ***Genesis 12-50***

EXODUS ("Going Out")
- **-- The Exodus from Egypt** ***Exodus 1-19***
- **-- The National Law** ***Exodus 20-24***
- **-- The Tabernacle** ***Exodus 25-40***

LEVITICUS (Pertaining to the Priests)
- **-- Sacrifices offered at the altar.** **Leviticus 1-7**
- **-- Sanctification of the priests.** **Leviticus 8-10**
- **-- Statutes the priests were to know and teach.** **Leviticus 11-27**

NUMBERS (Census Taken)
- **-- Concluding Events at Sinai** **Numbers 1-10**
- **-- The Wilderness Wanderings** **Numbers 11-21**
- **-- Events at the Plains of Moab** **Numbers 22-34**

DEUTERONOMY (2nd Giving of the Law)
- **-- Moses preaches in Plains of Moab** **Deuteronomy 1-34**

JOSHUA (Leader of the People)
- **-- Conquest of the Land of Canaan** **Joshua 1-12**
- **-- Division of the Land of Canaan** **Joshua 13-24**

JUDGES (Leaders of the nation of Israel)
- **-- Over a Dozen Cycles (S, S, S, S)** **Judges 1-16**
- **-- "They did what was right in their own eyes"** **Judges 17-21**

RUTH (Moabite girl restored to lineage of Christ)
- **-- The Story of Ruth** **Ruth 1-4**

I SAMUEL (From Samuel to the Kings he Appointed)
- **-- Eli and Samuel as Judges** **I Samuel 1-9**
- **-- Saul as King over Israel** **I Samuel 10-15**
- **-- Saul and his dealings with David** **I Samuel 16-31**

Review Questions:

1) **Why is the 4th book called "Numbers" and what is that book about?**

2) **Why did the Israelites travel in the wilderness for 40 years?**

3) **Describe Korah's rebellion.**

4) **Why wasn't Moses allowed into Canaan and who led the people in his place?**

5) **What are the famous words of Joshua in chapter 24?**

6) **After the conquest and division of the land, was God's land promise to the Jews fully fulfilled?**

7) **What 4 S cycle did Israel go through over and over during the time of the judges?**

8) **Why did Israel demand a king in the days of Samuel?**

Lesson 6 – Jewish Dispensation – *The United Kingdom*

Drill Questions:

1) **Who led Israel into the land and what was the land called?**

2) **What is the book of Joshua about and why is it a book of victory?**

3) **Who governed the people for the first 375 years they were in the land?**

4) **What is the book of Judges about and why is it a book of failure?**

5) **What cycle occurred over and over in the book of Judges?**

6) **What nationality was Ruth and what is her story?**

7) **What work did Samuel do for the Lord in his life?**

8) **Why did the people demand a king?**

The Jewish Kings

-- Note Chart #4 on the next page. Investigate the following categories.

- The United Kingdom: 3 rulers and the duration of their reigns.
- The Northern Kingdom: 20 rulers and the duration of the kingdom.
- The Southern Kingdom: 20 rulers and the duration up to the captivity.

I and II Samuel / I and II Kings

-- ***I Samuel 1-9***	Samuel: The Last Judge	(1:25-28; 8:1-7)
-- ***I Samuel 10-31***	Saul: First King	(9:1-2; 31:1-4)
- (***Ch. 16-31***)	- David and Saul	(16:19-23; 27:1)
-- ***II Samuel 1-24***	David: Second King	(2:1-4; 23:1-7)
-- ***I Kings 1-11***	Solomon: Third King	(2:1-4; 11:1-9; 43)
-- ***I Kings 12 – II Kings 25***	The Divided Kingdom	(12:12-20; 17:23)
- (***II Kings 18-24***)	- Judah Only	(25:1-7)

I and II Chronicles

-- "**Chronicle**" – "1. A historical record according to date; a register of facts or events arranged in the order in which they happened." An abbreviated record of divine history from the first man, Adam, to the return of Judah from captivity (***I Chronicles 1:1; II Chronicles 36:22-23***).

- I Chronicles 1-9	Genealogies	(1:1; 3:1; 8:33)
- I Chronicles 10	King Saul	(10:6; 13)
- I Chronicles 11-29	King David	(11:1-3; 29:26-29)
- II Chronicles 1-9	King Solomon	(1:1; 3:1; 9:22, 30-31)
- II Chronicles 10-36	Judah's Kings	(10:1-2; 34:1; 36:11-13)

The United Kingdom – 120 Years

The people of God demanded a king (***I Samuel 8:5***).

-- Saul ruled the Israelites for 40 years (***Acts 13:21***).

- Due to his sin, his dynasty was not established (***I Samuel 15:28***).

-- David was appointed by God to rule and he did so for 40 years (***I Kings 2:11***).

- Due to his righteousness, God chose his dynasty to reign over Israel.

-- Solomon succeeded David and reigned for 40 years (***I Kings 11:42***).

Chart #4 – JEWISH KINGS

United Kingdom

Saul, 1051-1004 BC (40 Years – Acts 13:21) (1 Samuel 9-31; 1 Chronicles 10)

David, 1011-971 BC (40 Years – I Kings 2:11) (1 Samuel 16 - 1 Kings 2; 1 Chronicles 11-29)

Solomon, 971-931 (40 Years – I Kings 11:42) (1 Kings 1-11; 2 Chronicles 1-9)

Divided Kingdom

(1 Kings 12 – 2 Kings 17 - Northern and Southern Kingdoms 2 Kings 18-25; 2 Chronicles 10-36 – Southern kingdom only)

[Some count 19 kings each, eliminating Tibna in Israel and Athaliah in Judah]

Israel	Yrs	Death	Date	Good?	Reference
1. Jeroboam*	22		931-910	bad	1 Ki 11-14; 2 Ch 10
2. Nadab	2	slain	910-909	bad	1 Ki 15:26-32
3. Baasha*	24		909-886	bad	1 Ki 15:32-16:7
4. Elah	2	slain	886-885	bad	1 Ki 16:8-14
5. Zimri*	7 d	suicide	885	bad	1 Ki 16:15-20
6. Tibni			885-880	e. bad	1 Ki 16:21-22
7. Omri*	12		885-874	e. bad	1 Ki 16:23-28
8. Ahab	22	in battle	874-853	worst	1 Ki 16:29-22:40
9. Ahaziah	2	accident	853-852	bad	1 Ki 22:51-2 Ki 1
10. Jehoram	12		852-841	m. bad	2 Ki 1:17-9:26
11. Jehu*‡	28		841-814	m. bad	2 Ki 9-10
12 Jehoahaz	17		814-798	bad	2 Ki 13:1-9
13. Jehoash	16		798-782	bad	2 Ki 13:10-25
14. Jeroboam II	41		793-753	bad	2 Ki 14:23-29
15. Zachariah	1/2	slain	753	bad	2 Ki 15:8-12
16. Shallum*	1 mo.	slain	753	bad	2 Ki 15:13-16
17. Menahem*	10		752-742	bad	2 Ki 15:17-22
18. Pekahiah	2	slain	742-740	bad	2 Ki 15:23-26
19. Pekah*	20	slain	752-732	bad	2 Ki 15:27-31
20. Hoshea*	9	slain	732-722	bad	2 Ki 17:1-6

722 BC – Assyrian Captivity. Never Returned
Had three capitals: Shechem; Tirzah; Samaria

*Founders of dynasties

Judah	Yrs	Death	Date	Good?	Reference
1. Rehoboam	17		931-913	m. bad	1 Ki 12,14; 2 Ch 10-12
2. Abijam	3		913-911	m. bad	1 Ki 15:1-8; 2 Ch 13
3. Asa	41		911-870	m. good	1 Ki 15:9-24; 2 Ch 14-16
4. Jehoshaphat	25		873-848	good	1 Ki 22:41-50; 2 Ch 17-20
5. Jehoram	8		853-841	bad	2 Ki 8:16-9:26; 2 Ch 21
6. Ahaziah	1	slain	841	bad	2 Ki 8:25-9:28; 2 Ch 22
7. Q. Athaliah	6	slain	841-835	bad	2 Ki 11; 2 Ch 22:10-23:21
8. Joash	40	slain	835-796	g → b	2 Ki 12; 2 Ch 24
9. Amaziah	29	slain	796-767	m. good	2 Ki 14:1-22; 2 Ch 25
10. Uzziah	52		790-739	m. good	2 Ki 15:1-7; 2 Ch 26
11. Jotham	16		751-736 A	m. good	2 Ki 15:32-38; 2 Ch 27
12. Ahaz	16		742-728 A	worst	2 Ki 16; 2 Ch 28
13. Hezekiah	29		728-697 A	good	2 Ki 18-20; 2 Ch 29-32
14. Manasseh	55		697-642 A	m. bad	2 Ki 21:1-18; 2 Ch 33:1-20
15. Amon	2	slain	642-640	bad	2 Ki 21:19-26; 2 Ch 33:21-25
16. Josiah	31	in battle	640-609	best	2 Ki 22:1-23:30; 2 Ch 34-35
17. Jehoahaz	1/4	Egypt	609	bad	2 Ki 23:31-35; 2 Ch 36:1-4
18. Jehoiakim	11	Babylon	609-597	bad	2 Ki 23:36-24:7; 2 Ch 36:1-8
19. Jehoiachin	1/4	Babylon	597	bad	2 Ki 24:8-17; 2 Ch 36:9-10
20. Zedekiah	11	Babylon	597-586	bad	2 Ki 24:18-25:7; 2 Ch 36:11-21

3 deportations: 606 BC; 597 BC; 586 BC
3 returns: Zerubbabel, 538/7 BC; Ezra, 458 BC; Nehemiah, 445 BC
One capital: Jerusalem

*All rulers of the house, or dynasty, of David (except usurper Queen Athaliah)

‡Jehu killed Jehoram of Israel & Ahaziah of Judah in one day - synchronism, 841; Shaded numbers = accession dating; Unshaded = non-accession (T)

Dates compiled from Edwin R. Thiele, *The Mysterious Numbers of the Hebrew Kings* & *A Chronology. of the Hebrew. Kings* (T); Gleason Archer, *A Survey of O.T. Introduction.* (A)

King Saul – (*I Samuel 9-31 / I Chronicles 10*)

-- Saul was chosen by God to be ruler over Israel (***I Samuel 9:15-17***).

-- He was exactly what the people had in mind: tall and handsome (***I Samuel 9:2***).

-- Saul was impatient and did not keep God's commandments (***I Samuel 13:8-14***).

-- He compromised the will of God and was found guilty by God yet again (***I Samuel 15:3, 8, 24-30, 35***).

-- Here are a few examples of Saul's sinful, murderous ways:

- Saul attempted multiple times to kill David – ***I Samuel 18:10-11, 25; 19:10; 20:3***.

- Saul tries to kill his own son Jonathan – ***I Samuel 20:30-34***.

- In his fury against David, Saul executed 85 priests – ***I Samuel 22:15-19***.

- In the end, the last person Saul killed was himself – ***I Samuel 31:1-6***.

-- David would later slay this same army of Philistines by God's might (***II Samuel 8:1***).
-- Due to a lack of faithfulness, Saul and his three sons died needlessly.

King David – (*II Samuel / I Chronicles 11-29*)

-- God chose David to be the next king (***I Samuel 16:10-13***). God said, "*A man after My own heart*" (***Acts 13:22***).

-- David kills Goliath, which brings adoration from the people of God (***I Samuel 17:48-54; 18:6-8***).

-- Saul's jealousy turned to rage, but David refused to retaliate ***(I Samuel 24:1-6; 26:5-10).***

-- After Saul's death, David's rule was contested for 7 years by Saul's son, Ishbosheth (***II Samuel 2:10-11; 3:1***).

-- Ultimately, by the will of God, David prevailed. His reign was 40 years (***II Samuel 5:4-7***). *[c. 1000 B.C.]*

-- Though David's sins are well documented, his heart and life were pleasing to God (***I Kings 3:6***).

- Adultery and Murder – II ***Samuel 11:1-17*** - Repentance and Consequences – ***12:13-14,23***.

- In two powerful Psalms, David writes about his choice to turn back God – ***Psalm 32, Psalm 51***.

-- God made a great covenant with King David – ***II Samuel 7:12-16.*** "Your throne shall be established forever."

- 300 years later, this promise was still spoken about by the prophet Isaiah (***Isaiah 9:6-7)***.

- The angel proclaimed Jesus to be the fulfillment (***Luke 1:26-33***).

- On the day the Church was established, Peter quotes II Samuel 7 (***Acts 2:29-32***).

-- **A Type of the Messiah** – Prophecies made about David were actually speaking to his heir: Jesus Christ.

- ***Jeremiah 30:8-9*** – "Serve…David their king, who I will raise up…"
- ***Jeremiah 31:31-33*** – This would be accomplished through a New Covenant.
- ***Hebrews 8:6-13*** – The true King of that covenant is Jesus Christ.
- ***Ezekiel 34:23-24*** – "Set over them one shepherd, My servant David."

-- **The Sweet Psalmist of Israel** (***II Samuel 16:18; 23:1-2***)

- David was a "skillful musician" who authored at least 72 Psalms.

"Psalms"

-- "Psalm" = a sacred song. Hebrew title: "book of praises."

-- The 150 Psalms are collected in 5 Sections: (***1:1; 42:1; 73:1; 90:1; 107:1***).

-- The book of Psalms also includes many prayers – ***Psalm 72:20***.

-- Psalms date from Moses (***Psalm 90***) to Post-Exile ***(Psalm 85, 126***).

-- Jesus taught that even the Psalms serve to lead us to Him (***Luke 24:44***).

King Solomon – (I Kings 1-11 / II Chronicles 1-9)

-- Solomon asked for wisdom and it was given to him (***I Kings 3:5-14***).

-- He showed great wisdom in a variety of ways (***I Kings 3:16-28; 4:29-34***).

-- But even the wisest of men can become fools (***I Kings 11:1-11***).

-- During his rule, Solomon did many noble things:

- He built the Temple for God (***I Kings 6:1, 37-38***).
- He wrote many inspired words (***I Kings 4:29-34***).

-- ***Psalm 72, 127; Proverbs 1-29; Ecclesiastes; Song of Solomon.***

-- Sadly, the last we read of him in I Kings 11, he is involved in idolatry, having followed foreign women. However, it is possible he repented after these events and then wrote the book of Ecclesiastes.

"Proverbs" – "Wise sayings" (Proverbs 1:6)

-- This is primarily a book of practical wisdom for everyday life. It includes long and short discourses on a variety of important topics. Samples:

- ***Proverbs 1:8-11*** – The danger of evil companions.
- ***Proverbs 2:15-18*** – The danger of the adulterer.
- ***Proverbs 3:11-12*** – Discipline from God and toward our children.
- ***Proverbs 4:23-26*** – Personal discipline: heart, mouth, eyes, and feet!

-- Note the last two chapters of Proverbs are written by other men.

"Ecclesiastes" – "one who addresses the assembly" "The Preacher" (1:1)

-- This letter considers all that can be considered by life "under the sun." It perfectly investigates life on earth and what it all means without God:

- The Question of the Book – ***Ecclesiastes 1:3.***
- The Answer to the Question – ***Ecclesiastes 1:2.***
- The Recommended Philosophy of Life – ***Ecclesiastes 2:26; 3:12-14.***
- The Conclusion when all has been heard – ***Ecclesiastes 12:13-14.***

"Song of Solomon"

Solomon wrote about the love that he had for a Shulamite maiden. However, she is in love with a shepherd boy (***6:1-3***). Though Solomon tries to woo her with riches, she chooses the unquenchable and priceless joy of life: LOVE – ***Song of Solomon 8:1-7***.

Review Questions:

1) **Which books of the Old Testament cover the period of the Kings?**
2) **Who were the first 3 kings of the united kingdom of Israel?**
3) **The united kingdom lasted about how many years?**
4) **What does the word "Chronicles" mean, as in "I and II Chronicles"?**
5) **What are some physical characteristics of King Saul?**
6) **What are some spiritual characteristics of Saul?**
7) **How was David different than Saul, both in physical and spiritual stature?**
8) **Where is God's great Messianic covenant with David recorded in Scripture?**
9) **About how many Bible Psalms did David write?**

Lesson 7 – Jewish Dispensation – *The Divided Kingdom*

Drill Questions:

1) **List at least one prominent figure from the following time period:**

   2000 B.C. -

   1500 B.C. -

   1000 B.C. -

2) **What are the books of I and II Samuel about?**

3) **What are the books of I and II Kings about?**

4) **What are the books of I and II Chronicles about?**

5) **Why did king Saul lose his right to have his own heirs rule the people of Israel?**

6) **What notable Messianic promise did God make to David? Where is that promise found in the Bible?**

7) **Which Old Testament letters were written by Solomon?**

The Divided Kingdom – 931 B.C. (*I Kings 12*)

-- The kingdom divided as a consequence of Solomon's sin **– *I Kings 11:9-13***.

-- Jeroboam led 10 tribes North. This became **Israel** – ***I Kings 11:31-35***.

- These tribes were from 8 sons of Jacob and 2 sons of Joseph.

-- Rehoboam kept 2 tribes in the South. This became **Judah – *I Kings 12:21.***

- These tribes included Judah and Benjamin. The Levites remained also.

The Northern Kingdom – (931 B.C. – 722 B.C.)

-- The Northern Kingdom: ***I Kings 12 – II Kings 17***.

-- This kingdom lasted 209 years before being taken captive by Assyria.

-- Note from Chart #4 (*page 23*) that they had ALL BAD kings!

-- **II Kings 17** clearly documents the cause of the fall of Israel.

- Irreverence toward God – ***vs. 7, 13-14, 25, 34-36, 41***

- Influence of the World – ***vs. 8, 11, 15, 19, 21-22***

- Insistence on Rejecting Truth – ***vs. 13, 15, 16, 19, 34-35***

-- The Samaritan nation was founded in the aftermath of the Assyrian attack against the Northern kingdom – ***II Kings 17:6, 24, 27-29***.

The Southern Kingdom – (931 B.C. – 606 B.C)

-- The Southern Kingdom: ***I Kings 12 – II Kings 24; II Chronicles 10-36.***

-- This kingdom lasted 325 years before taken captive by Babylon.

-- They were restored as a nation after 70 years – ***Jeremiah 25:11-12***.

-- While Israel had 9 different dynasties, Judah maintained the dynasty of David, except for Queen Athaliah, the usurper **– *II Chronicles 22:10-12***.

-- Though only about 9 rulers were godly, God's plan for Christ continued through David's lineage – ***II Samuel 7:16; I Kings 15:4; Luke 1:32-33.***

-- Read ***Jeremiah 22:24-30*** – After Jehoiachin, none of Coniah's line would prosper on the throne of David, in Judah, ever again. Pre-millennialism suggests that Christ will rule on His throne in Judah. Jeremiah's words clearly teach that an earthly reign is not God's plan.

The Prophets – Spokesmen for God.

-- ALL of the literary prophets in your Old Testament lived and prophesied during the period of the Divided Kingdom. Obadiah may have been the earliest, at 850 B.C., and Malachi would likely be the latest at 440 B.C..

-- God established long before then that a prophet is a mouthpiece for God to the people – ***Exodus 7:1-2; 4:16***.

-- "Prophet" is derived from *pro*, forth or openly, and *phemi*, to speak. A prophet is one who speaks forth or openly the things of God. Biblically, the word does not denote telling the future. Though prophecy was sometimes a *fore*telling, it was primarily a *forth*-telling.

-- If a prophet spoke for God, and his words always came true, he was to be obeyed – ***Deuteronomy 18:18-22.***

-- The Bible uses quite a few different phrases to designate people as prophets:

- "Seer" – ***I Samuel 9:9*** "Man of God" – ***I Samuel 9:6*** "Inspired Man" – ***Hosea 9:7***

Oral Prophets

-- Though all of the major and minor prophetic books were written after the division of the kingdom, there were many other prophets, before this time, and during this time, who did not write down their prophecies. These are called "oral" prophets. We know of them only by references given to us in the Scripture.

-- **Elijah** and **Elisha** are among the best known Oral Prophets.

- These two did their work between 860 B.C. and 795 B.C.
- Their labor is recorded in the books of history: ***I Kings 17 – II Kings 13***.
- Both were prophets to the Northern Kingdom of Israel. So they had a very difficult time.
- **Elijah** was very bold and yet had a heart to try to save people – ***I Kings 18:1, 17-18, 21***.
- He was taken up to heaven in a chariot of fire and **Elisha** succeeded him – ***II Kings 2:9-14***.
- **Elisha** went on to be a centerpiece in some incredible Bible stories ***– II Kings 5:8-14; 6:1-7***.

-- Note that **Elijah** was a type or shadow of **John the Baptist** – ***Malachi 4:5; Luke 1:17; Matthew 17:11-12.***

Literary Prophets

-- The **last 17 books** of the Old Testament are letters written by 16 different prophets (Jeremiah wrote his letter and also Lamentation). The **first 5** are often called "major prophets" simply because of their longer length. Hence, the **final 12** are called "minor prophets" because of their shorter length.

-- Below, and onto the next page, we will examine a brief description of the 17 Prophetic Books:

Isaiah prophesied to both Northern and Southern kings over a period of about 40 years (740 B.C. – 700 B.C.). His work spoke of the fall of Israel (722 B.C.) and the fall of Judah (605 B.C.) as well as God's eventual punishment against the nations who attacked them (Assyria and Babylon). Most noteworthy are the prophecies concerning the coming Messiah and His Reign – ***Isaiah 2:1-4, 7:14; 9:6-7; 53***.

Jeremiah prophesied to the Southern Kingdom of Judah for over 53 years (626 B.C. – 574 B.C.). He warned them before the Babylonian attack (605 B.C.) and then remained in Jerusalem after the attacks to speak to those left behind after the attack. He was in Jerusalem after the final attack (586 B.C.), and continued to prophecy once the people travelled to Egypt for refuge ***(39:1-2, 5-10; 43:1-7; 44:1)***.

Lamentation is a shorter book, written by Jeremiah, as he laments the devastating situation in Jerusalem after Nebuchadnezzar's final attack. All Jeremiah can do is beg for mercy from God: (***1:1-3; 5:19-22)***.

Ezekiel spoke for God among the Jewish exiles who had been taken captive by the Babylonians in the second attack on the city (597 B.C.) (***1:1-3***). He began at the age of 30 and prophesied from 593 B.C. to 570 B.C.. Though most of the book is about God's judgment on sin, there are passages in the later portion of future peace and restoration for Judah, as well as prophecies about Jesus: (***36:22-31; 37:24-28)***.

Daniel tells his story of being taken captive in the first raid on Jerusalem (605 B.C.). By God's power, Daniel did well in Babylon and outlived their entire empire! His book covers a period of about 70 years, and is laid out in chapters 1-6. The final 6 chapters capture visions Daniel saw concerning events in their future. Beyond Daniel's great story, this book speaks about the establishment of Christ's rule: (***2:40-44; 7:13-14).***

Hosea spoke to Israel in the years just before Assyria destroyed them (755 B.C. – 725 B.C.). He was asked to take a harlot for a wife to show the people what it was like for God to be married to them. Hosea speaks of their allegiance to nations that would destroy them (***12:1-3***). Hosea pleads for the people to repent (***14:1-9***).

Joel addressed Judah around the year 830 B.C.. Half of the book is used warning them of fast approaching judgments against the people (***2:1-3***). The second half speaks of Messianic hope in Jesus (***2:28-32; 3:1-2)***.

Amos prophesied in 760 B.C. to the Northern Kingdom of Israel. It is a book of judgment against both North and South kingdoms from start to finish (***2:4, 13-16***), but ends with hope of restoration for Judah (***9:11-15***).

Obadiah might be the oldest prophetic book, dated at 840 B.C. It is only one chapter in length and simply announced to the nation of Edom that they would suffer for mistreatment to Judah (***1:1-4, 10-11, 15***).

Jonah tells the story of a man's reluctant journey to Nineveh (Assyrian Capital) in 775 B.C. in order to call for their repentance. They do repent (***3:3-9***). Jonah is displeased that God spared his enemies (***4:1-4***).

Micah spoke to Judah between 735 B.C. and 700 B.C.. Sadly, he prophesied of Judah's captivity to Babylon, as a result of sinfulness (***1:5-6; 5:10-14***). In this letter is found great future peace in Jesus! (***5:1-5***).

Nahum was sent to Nineveh in 625 B.C., about 150 years after Jonah was there. The people are once again wicked and this time all that was coming was destruction (***3:18-19***). Babylon destroyed them in 612 B.C.

Habakkuk prophesied in 609-607 B.C to Judah, just a few years before Nebuchadnezzar attacked from Babylon. He was told by God what was coming (***1:1-6***). All he could do was exalt God through it all (***3:16-19***).

Zephaniah spoke to Judah in the years before the first Babylonian attack (640 B.C. – 609 B.C.). The news was grim, but they were called to repent (***2:1-3***), and ultimately they lived in hope of restoration (***3:14-18***).

Haggai was called by God in 520 B.C. to encourage the Jews to rebuild the temple after their captivity was complete (***Ezra 5:1; 6:14; Haggai 1:5-7***). He also introduced prophecies about Jesus (***Haggai 2:6-9; 20-22***).

Zechariah worked right beside Haggai in 520 B.C.. His approach included many visions and figurative images (***1:8; 2:1; 3:1; 4:1-3; 5:1-2; 6:1-3***). He too speaks of great restoration in Christ (***14:6-9; 20-21***).

Malachi is the last written Old Testament letter (440 B.C.). It was written during Nehemiah's time after Jerusalem was restored. Sadly this is an indictment of ungodly priests (***1:6-8, 13-14; 2:13-16***). It closes with the promise of a forerunner to Jesus (***4:1-6***).

Chart #5 – Old Testament Prophets

THE PROPHETS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

Prophet		Date (B.C.)	Written To	Dating Information
1. **Obadiah**		c. 840 ?	Edom (Esau's Line)	1:10-14
2. **Joel**		c. 830 ?	Judah	3:2…1:13-14; 2:17
3. **Jonah**		c. 760	Nineveh (Assyria)	2 Ki. 14:25
4. **Amos**		c. 760-750	Israel	1:1
5. **Hosea**		c. 755-725	Israel	1:1
6. **Isaiah**	Con.	c. 740-700	Judah	1:1
7. **Micah**		c. 735-700	Judah	1:1
8. **Jeremiah**		c. 626-574	Judah (In Exile)	1:1-3
9. **Zephaniah**		c. 630-625	Judah	1:1
10. **Nahum**	Con.	c. 625-612	Nineveh (Assyria)	1:1; 3:8-10
11. **Habakkuk**	Also with Jeremiah	c. 607	Judah	1:5-6; 3:16
12. **Ezekiel**		c. 593-570	Judah (In Exile)	1:2…29:17 (33:21; 40:1)
13. **Daniel**		c. 605-530s	Judah (In Exile)	1:1…10:1
14. **Haggai**		c. 520	Judah (Post Exile)	1:1; 2:1,10,20
15. **Zachariah**		c. 520-518	Judah (Post Exile)	1:1; 7:1
16. **Malachi**		c. 440	Judah (Post Exile)	1:8,10; 2:8 (Nehemiah 13:29) 2:11 (Nehemiah 13:23,28) 3:7,8 (Nehemiah 13:10-12)

Con. = Contemporaries c. = About 17 prophetic books – Lamentations by Jeremiah

ADDITIONAL NOTES

The Book of Job

-- Job is a confirmed, historical person (***Ezekiel 14:14-20; James 5:11***).

-- Dating the book of Job is very difficult. Job may have lived in the Patriarchal age (c. 2000 B.C.), making it the oldest book in the Bible. All we can confirm is that he lived previous to Ezekiel (c. 600 B.C.).

-- Outline of the Book:

- ***Ch. 1-3*** – Job is allowed by God to suffer at the hands of Satan.
- ***Ch. 4-31*** – Job's 3 friends converse with him. Their advice is clouded by the false idea that suffering is always the result of sin.
- ***Ch. 32-37*** - A fourth, younger man chimes in, but is little help.
- ***Ch. 38-42*** - The Lord and Job have a conversation. Job is humbled and learns valuable lessons about God's greatness. In the end, God "restores the fortunes of Job" and even increased it "two fold" (***42:10***).

Review Questions:

1) **What was the Northern Kingdom called? When did it fall? And what nation captured it?**

2) **How many rulers reigned in the Northern Kingdom? How many of them were godly?**

3) **What was the Southern Kingdom called? How long did it last before exile?**

4) **Whose dynasty remained intact on the throne throughout the existence of the Southern Kingdom?**

5) **What is a "prophet?" What is the difference between an "oral" prophet and a "literary" prophet? Name at least two "oral" prophets during the divided kingdom?**

6) **Why did Obadiah write his letter to Edom in 840 B.C.?**

7) **Why did Hosea write his letter to Israel in 725 B.C.?**

Lesson 8 – Jewish Dispensation – *Captivity and Return*

Drill Questions:

1) **When did the Jewish kingdom divide and what were the names of the two kingdoms thereafter?**

2) **How long did the Northern kingdom last and to whom did they fall?**

3) **How long did the Southern kingdom last before a fall and to whom did they fall?**

4) **What is a "prophet"?**

5) **What is the difference between an "oral" prophet and a "literary" prophet?**

6) **Who were two great "oral" prophets to Israel during the divided kingdom? Where in the Bible do we read about them?**

7) **What are the books we call the "major prophets" and why are they so called?**

8) **What are the books we call the "minor prophets" and why are they so called?**

Babylonian Captivity

-- Due to habitual unfaithfulness, Judah was sentenced to 70 years of captivity at the hands of Nebuchadnezzar and his forces.

- Jeremiah told the people about what was coming – ***Jeremiah 25:8-11***.

- He told them how long it would last – ***Jeremiah 29:10-13***.

-- 70 years can be figured in two ways:

- 605 – 536 B.C. – First attack to first return from captivity.

- 586 – 516 B.C. – Temple destroyed to the temple rebuilt.

- The events unfolded just as Jeremiah said – ***II Chronicles 36:19-21***.

- Others also announced these days – ***Habakkuk 1:1-11; 3:16-18.***

-- The Babylonians attacked Jerusalem three times. Each time more people were taken captive. Ultimately, the temple of worship was destroyed.

- <u>Three Deportations</u>

-- **605 B.C.** – Some were taken, including Daniel – ***II Kings 24:1-2.***

-- **597 B.C.** – More are taken, including Ezekiel – ***II Kings 24:8-14.***

-- **586 B.C.** – Jerusalem and the temple are destroyed – ***25:8-10.***

Prophets of the Exile

-- **Jeremiah** (c. 626 – 572 B.C.)

- He prophesied to the remnant left in Judah – ***Jeremiah 29:1; 32:1-2.***

- Jeremiah lamented over what he saw in Jerusalem – ***Lamentations***.

- He later prophesied to the exiles who fled to Egypt – ***Jeremiah 43:6-13.***

-- **Daniel** (c. 606 – 530 B.C.)

- Daniel prophesied to the ruler in Babylon – ***Daniel 1:1-7, 17-21.***

- The first 6 chapters cover his interaction with Kings during his life in Babylon. The second 6 chapters show dreams he had during that time.

- Daniel's prophecies about Christ abound! – ***Daniel 2:44; 7:13-14; 9:24***.

-- **Ezekiel** (c. 593 – 570 B.C.)

- He prophesied to the exiles in Babylon – ***Ezekiel 1:1; 2:1-7; 3:15-17.***

-- These men give different perspective on the same event. They also demonstrate faithfulness, regardless of surroundings.

Returns from Captivity

-- Just as God promised through Jeremiah, the Jews were freed after 70 years captive. The Babylonian empire fell to the combined Mede / Persian empire. Daniel records the deposing of the final Babylonian king, and Darius the Mede taking over in Babylon (***Daniel 5:29-31***). Ezra, a letter that recounts the history of the first two returns, opens by noting that Cyrus is now the Persian king over all the known world, and immediately begins to fulfill the promise God made to His people (***Ezra 1:1-2***).

- The First Return – *Led by Zerubbabel – 537 B.C. – Ezra 1:1 – 2:2*

-- The foundation to rebuild the temple was laid quickly – (***Ezra 3:1-11*** – 536 B.C.).

-- The Jews face opposition and stop rebuilding the temple – (***Ezra 4:4***).

-- The temple remains incomplete for 16 years! – (***Ezra 4:24*** – 520 B.C.).

-- Haggai and Zechariah stir the people to complete the work – (***Ezra 5:1-2; Haggai 1:4-9; 2:4***).

-- The temple was finally completed – (***Ezra 6:15-16*** – 516 B.C.).

- The Second Return – *Led by Ezra – 458 B.C. – Ezra 7:1-10*

-- Note the gap in time between Ezra chapters 6 and 7 – c. 60 years.

-- Ezra returned to assist with religious reform in Jerusalem – ***Ezra 7:25-26***.

-- This included difficult reform issues, like leaving unlawful marriages – ***Ezra 10:1-3.***

- The Third Return – *Led by Nehemiah – 445 B.C. – Nehemiah 2:1-8*

-- Nehemiah lived far away in Susa, but learned that the wall of Jerusalem had not been reconstructed. This troubled him greatly, so he petitioned to return and help – ***Nehemiah 1:1-4.***

-- What the people failed to do in 90 years, Nehemiah led them to do in 52 days! - ***6:15.***

"Esther"

-- The story of Esther is dated to about 475 B.C., based on the king who is identified as ruling in Susa. This places the events of the book somewhere in that 60 year span between Ezra chapters 6 and 7.

-- This historical event has great importance to the Jewish people. As seen in ***Esther 3:12-15***, King Ahasuerus signed an edict effectively announcing an annihilation date for the Jewish people!

-- God's providential plan places Esther and her cousin Mordecai in unique positions to thwart the efforts of the evil Haman, and save the Jewish people from this fate! (***Esther 2:5-8; 8:1-6***).

-- The dinner, with the king, Esther and Haman, is an incredible moment of courage defeating evil! (***7:1-10***).

-- Out of this came the Jewish feast called "Purim" (***Esther 9:16-32***).

"Malachi"

-- Malachi is the last book of the Old Testament. It is probably the last written book as well, dating to somewhere between 445 B.C. and 420 B.C. This would make Nehemiah and Malachi contemporaries.

- The date of Malachi is largely determined by connecting it with Nehemiah's point in history.

  -- The nation of Israel was being ruled by a "governor" – ***Malachi 1:8; Nehemiah 8:9-11***.

  -- It is clear that the temple had been rebuilt – ***Malachi 1:6-10***.

  -- Malachi addresses similar problems to those of Nehemiah:

  - Intermarriage with foreigners – ***Malachi 2:11; Nehemiah 13:23,28.***
  - Failure to tithe – ***Malachi 3:7-8; Nehemiah 3:10-12***.
  - Priests defiling the covenant – ***Malachi 2:8; Nehemiah 13:29.***

Silence

-- If the book of Malachi was written in 420 B.C., and the earliest written New Testament book was written in 50 A.D. (I Thessalonians), then that is 470 years without prophetic record! The distance between Nehemiah's work and Jesus' coming would be roughly 450 years (445 B.C. to 0 A.D. – roughly). But this doesn't mean significant things weren't happening! They were not inspired things, but still had an impact!

- **Apocrypha** - These are 14 books of Jewish history and religious writings. These men were not inspired, but have been generally considered godly men. It is not a part of the Holy scriptures. It was not written by inspired men. However, it has been preserved due to its historical content. For more information on why these books are not included as Scripture, see: ht*tp://carm.org/apocrypha-it-scripture*.

- **Septuagint (LXX)** – This is sometimes called "Greek Old Testament." In around 250 B.C., 70 scholars (LXX) began translating the Hebrew Old Testament into the Greek language. Due to the conquests of Alexander the Great a hundred years before, Greek was becoming the language of the world. Interestingly, New Testament writers often quote the Septuagint version of the Old Testament. A primary reason to know about the Septuagint is to demonstrate to people that the Old Testament dates before AT LEAST 250 B.C.

- **Sadducees and Pharisees** - Have you ever noticed that you don't hear anything about these two groups through the whole Old Testament? Then, as the Gospels open, there they are! (***Matthew 3:7***). Sadducees were a wealthy collection of aristocrats, commonly including the chief priests and high priest. They held the majority of the 70 seats of the council called the Sanhedrin. They did not believe in the resurrection of the dead, nor the existence of angels or demons. Pharisees, on the other hands, were mostly middle class business men, and had more favor with the common folks. They did believe in resurrection and also the spiritual realm. Through the gospels, both parties earned numerous rebukes from Jesus. They both rose to prominence in the years between Old Testament and New Testament revelation.

Six World Empires

-- **Egypt** (1600 – 1200 B.C.) -- Egypt was in power during the time of Joseph and Moses.

-- Assyria (800's – 612 B.C.) -- Assyria destroyed Israel in 722 B.C., but ultimately Nineveh fell to Babylon.

-- Babylon (612 – 539 B.C.) – Babylon led Judah captive for 70 years, but was then defeated by the Persians.

-- Persia (539 – 331 B.C.) – King Cyrus let the Jews go home, but Alexander the Great later overtook Persia.

-- **Greece** (331 – 146 B.C.) – Greece ruled for nearly 200 years, before becoming a Roman providence.

-- Rome (146 B.C. – 476 A.D.) – Rome was in power during the time of Christ, just as Daniel said (***2:44***).

Chart #3 – JEWISH DISPENSATION (*Review*)

National Covenant
Israel (Jews)

Time Covered:
1500 Years

MOSES

1) Mt. Sinai – The Giving of the Law — ***1 Year***

   Exodus 19 – Numbers 10

2) Wilderness Wandering — ***40 Years***

   Numbers 11 – Deuteronomy 34

3) Canaan – The Judges — ***375 Years***

   Joshua – I Samuel 9

4) Kings — ***1050 Years***

   Undivided Kingdom – 120 Years
   Divided Kingdom – 325 Years
   Babylonian Captivity – 70 Years
   Return and Afterward – 135 Years
   Silence of Scripture – 400 Years

   I Samuel 10 - Malachi

5) The Birth and Life of Jesus — ***33 Years***

   Matthew – Acts 1

CHRIST

Review Questions:

1) What nation took Judah captive and who was the king of that nation?
2) They were attacked 3 times. List those three dates below.
3) According to Jeremiah's prophecy (29:1), how long would Judah be captive?
4) What three major prophets worked for God during the captivity of Judah?
5) List the 3 dates for Judah's return from captivity. And who led each return home?
6) What is the approximate date for the book of Malachi?
7) What is the "Apocrypha"?
8) What is the "Septuagint"?
9) What are the six world empires of Bible times, and what did Daniel prophecy about them in Daniel 2?

Lesson 9 – Jewish Dispensation – *Jesus Christ, Son of God*

Drill Questions:

1) **Who led Judah's first return from captivity and what was the date?**

2) **Who led the second return and what was the date?**

3) **Who led the third return and what was the date?**

4) **When was the last Old Testament book written?**

5) **List the 6 World Empires during Bible times.**

6) **What is the book of Ezra about? How much time is between chapters 6 and 7?**

7) **What is the book of Nehemiah about? How quickly was the wall fixed?**

8) **Detail the book of Esther.**

9) **What is the "Septuagint?"**

Jesus Christ in the Old Testament

-- The Old Testament teaches much about the glory of Jesus. In fact, Jesus Himself eludes to this multiple times – **John 5:39; Luke 24:25-27.**

-- The presence of the Son of God during Old Testament times is evident:

- Genesis 1:26: 11:7 – "Let Us make man in Our image."

- John 8:54-59 – "Before Abraham was born, I am."

- I Corinthians 10:1-4 – "…a spiritual rock which followed them…Christ."

-- The Old Testament contains dozens of prophecies fulfilled only in Christ!

- Here are several we have already identified in our previous lessons:

-- **Genesis 3:15; Genesis 12:3; II Samuel 7:12-17; Daniel 2:44**

- <u>Prophecy is a primary proof of Jesus used in the Gospels</u>! Matthew, for instance, uses the power of prophecy to show people that Jesus is the Messiah for whom they had been waiting. As you see the references below, keep in mind that Matthew is writing in about 60 A.D., Jesus has ascended, the story of His life on earth is complete. Now, the author is showing the audience the amazing fulfillment that has taken place.

-- **Matthew 1:22-23**	**Isaiah 7:14**	(c. 700 B.C.)
-- **Matthew 2:3-6**	**Micah 5:2**	(c. 700 B.C.)
-- **Matthew 2:14-15**	**Hosea 11:1**	(c. 700 B.C.)
-- **Matthew 2:16-18**	**Jeremiah 31:15**	(c. 600 B.C.)
-- Matthew 3:1-3	**Isaiah 40:3**	
-- Matthew 4:12-16	**Isaiah 9:1**	
-- Matthew 8:14-17	**Isaiah 53:4**	
-- Matthew 12:9-21	**Isaiah 42:1-3**	
-- Matthew 21:1-5	**Zechariah 9:9**	(c. 500 B.C.)
-- Matthew 21:12-13	**Isaiah 56:7; Jeremiah 7:11**	
-- Matthew 21:33-44	**Psalm 118:22**	(c. 1000 B.C.)

- On the day of Pentecost, as recorded in Acts 2, the apostles continued to use prophecy about Christ as a proof of His glory!

-- Acts 2:14-21	**Joel 2:28-32**	(c. 800 B.C.)
-- Acts 2:24-28,31	**Psalm 16:8-11**	(c. 1000 B.C.)
-- Acts 2:29-30	**II Samuel 7:12-17**	(c. 1000 B.C.)
-- Acts 2:33-36	**Psalm 110:1**	(c. 1000 B.C.)

-- If ever a loved one of mine determined to deny the Lord and walk away from faith in God, my first question would be: *What about the prophecies?* We would all do well to have a dozen or so marked in our Bibles and accessible in a moment's notice.

Jesus Christ in the Gospels

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are commonly called "the Gospels." They tell us the "good news" story of Jesus (***Mark 1:1; 16:15-16***). Below is a condensed outline of Jesus' 3+ year ministry. Passages have been provided on the right. Note the different points of emphasis in each Gospel.

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
- From Birth to Age Twelve				
-- Jesus is born in Bethlehem to Mary. (c. 4 B.C.)	**1:18-25**		**2:1-7**	
-- His family flees to Egypt and then returns to Nazareth.	**2:13-18**			
-- Jesus is in Jerusalem at age 12 for the Passover.			**2:41-51**	
- John the Baptist's Ministry				
-- John begins his forerunner work.	**3:1-6**	**1:1-6**	**3:1-6**	
-- He warns, teaches, and proclaims the Christ.	**3:11-12**	**1:7-8**	**3:7-18**	
- The Beginning of Jesus' Ministry				
-- Baptized by John and then Tempted in the Wilderness.	**3:13-4:11**	**1:9-13**	**3:21-4:13**	
-- First miracle: Water to Wine.				**2:1-11**
-- First ministry visit to Jerusalem (Cleansed the Temple).				**2:13-25**
-- Jesus with the Samaritan women at the well.				**4:5-42**
- Jesus' Ministry in Galilee				
-- Jesus calls Peter, Andrew, James and John to the work.	**4:18-22**	**1:16-20**	**5:1-11**	
-- Jesus heals many, including paralytic from the roof.	**8:14-9:8**	**1:40-2:12**	**5:17-26**	
-- Tax collector, Matthew, is called to the work.	**9:9-13**	**2:13-17**	**5:27-32**	
-- Disciples pick grain and Jesus heals on the Sabbath.	**12:1-14**	**2:23-3:6**	**6:1-11**	
- Selection of the 12 and the Sermon on the Mount				
-- The 12 Apostles are listed.		**3:13-19**	**6:12-16**	
-- Jesus preaches the Sermon on the Mount in Galilee.	**Ch. 5-7**		**6:12-49**	
- Increasing Fame and Rejection				
-- Jesus raises the widow's son from the dead.			**7:11-17**	
-- A woman anoints Jesus' feet.			**7:36-50**	
-- Blasphemous accusations are made against Jesus.	**12:22-45**	**3:20-45**		
- The Parables of the Kingdom				
-- Jesus teaches 10 parables about His Kingdom.	**13:1-52**	**4:1-34**	**8:4-18**	
- Growing Opposition to Jesus' Ministry				
-- Jesus calms a storm, heals a demonic and raises a girl.	**8:18-9:26**	**4:35-5:43**	**8:22-26**	
-- Unbelief is evident in Jesus' home town of Nazareth.	**13:54-58**	**6:1-6**		
- End of Galilean Ministry				
-- The 12 Apostles are called upon to follow from then on.	**10:1-42**	**6:7-11**	**9:1-5**	
- Christ's Ministry Extends Beyond Galilee				
-- Jesus goes across the Sea of Galilee and feeds 5,000.	**14:15-21**	**6:31-44**	**9:10-17**	**6:1-15**
-- He heals many and feeds 4,000 more in Decapolis.	**15:29-31**	**8:1-9**		
-- Jesus heals a blind man in Bethsaida.		**8:22-26**		
- Jesus' Identity as Messiah is Confirmed				
-- Peter confesses that Jesus is Christ, the Son of God.	**16:13-20**	**8:27-30**	**9:18-21**	
-- Jesus is "Transfigured" on the mountain.	**17:1-13**	**9:2-13**	**9:28-36**	
-- Jesus predicts His death, burial and resurrection.	**17:22-23**	**9:30-32**	**9:43-45**	
-- He departs for Jerusalem through Samaria.			**9:51-56**	**7:10**

Jesus Christ in the Gospels (continued)

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
- Later Judean Ministry of Jesus				
-- Much conflict arises between Jesus and the Pharisees.				**7:11-8:59**
-- 70 workers are sent out and then return to Jesus.			**10:1-24**	
-- Good Samaritan story. Visits Mary and Martha.			**10:25-42**	
-- Jesus issues many warnings about the dangers of sin.			**12:13-13:9**	
-- Jesus heals the blind man.				**9:1-41**
- Jesus Works His Way Toward Jerusalem				
-- Luke's gospel documents miracles and parables.			**13:22-18:30**	
-- At some point He crossed beyond the Jordan.				**10:40-42**
-- Jesus returned from there to raise Lazarus.				**11:1-44**
- Jesus' Last Week				
-- Jesus triumphantly enters Jerusalem.	**21:1-17**	**11:1-11**	**19:28-44**	**12:12-19**
-- Jesus cleanses the temple a second time.	**21:12-13**	**11:15-18**	**19:45-48**	
-- Christ's authority is challenged.	**21:23-27**	**11:27-33**	**20:1-8**	
-- He laments over Jerusalem for their sinfulness.	**23:37-39**			
- The Betrayal, Arrest, and Crucifixion of Jesus				
-- Judas agrees to betray Jesus.	**26:14-26**	**14:10-11**	**22:3-6**	
-- Jesus eats the Passover meal with His disciples.	**26:20-29**	**14:12-25**	**22:7-16**	
-- John's Gospel adds tremendous detail to this dinner.				**Ch. 13-17**
-- Jesus was arrested, tried and unlawfully convicted.	**26:47-27:34**	**14:43-15:23**	**22:47-23:33**	**18:2-19:17**
-- Jesus was crucified and laid in Joseph's tomb.	**27:31-66**	**15:24-47**	**23:26-56**	**19:18-42**
- The Resurrection and Ascension of Christ				
-- Jesus was raised on the first day of the week!	**28:1-10**	**16:1-8**	**24:1-10**	**20:1-0**
-- Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene.		**16:9-11**		**20:11-18**
-- Jesus later appears to His Apostles.	**12:22-45**		**24:36-49**	**20:19-21:24**
-- Christ blesses the Apostles and then ascends.		**16:19-20**	**24:50-53**	

The Four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)

-- The four Gospels will certainly share similarities in approach and historical content, since they were all four written about Jesus and also written by people who lived in the time of Jesus. But also, being written by four different men, they will each be unique in certain aspects. Let's look at both similarities and uniqueness.

- <u>Where does each Gospel begin</u>?
  - -- **Matthew** begins with a genealogy of Jesus and then the announcement of His birth. (c. 4 B.C.)
  - -- **Mark** begins with the preaching work of John the Baptist. (c. 26 A.D.)
  - -- **Luke** begins with the announcement of John the Baptist's birth. (c. 4 B.C.)
  - -- **John** begins "in the beginning", then picks up with John the Baptist's work. (??? / c. 26 A.D.)

- <u>Where does each Gospel conclude</u>?
  - -- **Matthew** records the commission Jesus gave His Apostles just before they saw Him ascend.
  - -- **Mark** records Jesus ascending into heaven and the Apostles going out to preach the message.
  - -- **Luke** records the Apostles watching Jesus ascend then going to Jerusalem, praising God.
  - -- **John** records Jesus and the Apostles after the resurrection. There is so much more to tell! (**21:25**).

- <u>What is the purpose for the Gospels</u>?
  - -- All come together to teach us who Jesus is and what He has offered us all! (**John 20:30-31**).

The Four Gospels (continued)

-- "Synoptics"

- Matthew, Mark and Luke are called the "synoptic" gospels because their accounts parallel one another. That is, they take a similar (syn) view (optic) of Christ's Life. John does not contradict the synoptics, but merely presents the life of Christ from a different perspective.

-- The Last Week

- One third of the Gospel chapters are devoted to Christ's last week.
- The last week begins: **Matt. 21:1; Mk. 11:1; Luke 19:28; John 12:12.**
- WHY? Certainly Jesus' death is the single most significant event in the history of the world! (**Romans 5:8-9**). Also it lead up to His resurrection which gives us hope beyond all else (I **Corinthians 15**).

-- Credibility of the Authors (Eyewitnesses / Testimony from Eyewitnesses)

- Matthew and John were Apostles of Jesus (**John 19:35**).
- Mark and Luke based their work on eyewitnesses (**Luke 1:1-4**).
- *"The writings of a contemporary, who is credible, and who has had opportunity for personal knowledge of the facts recorded, have the highest degree of credibility"* (George Rawlinson, 1859).
- *"Those of a writer who may be reasonably supposed to have obtained his information from eyewitnesses possess the second degree of credibility"* (J.W. McGarvey, 1956).

The Apostles ("apostle" = "one sent")

-- Jesus originally chose 12 apostles – **Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:16-19**.
-- After Judas' death, Matthias was chosen – **Acts 1:15-26** (2 qualifications).
-- Several years later, Paul became "Apostle to the Gentiles" – **Acts 9:15**.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Christ – The fulfillment of the Law

-- Christ was the end or aim of the Law of Moses. It looked forward to Him and told of His dispensation (**Matt. 5:17; Romans 10:4; Galatians 3:24**).

-- Christ's kingdom was prophesied in the Law (**Daniel 2:44; 7:13-14**). It was "at hand" during Jesus' life (**Mark 1:15**). It did not begin when Christ died (**Acts 1:6-8**). Not until He sat upon His throne (**Ephesians 1:20-21**).

Christ – His life and ministry

-- Jesus was about 30 when He started His ministry (**Luke 3:23**).
-- 3 year ministry is based on Passovers in John (**2:13,23; 5:1; 6:4; 12:1**).
-- He lived and died under the Old Law (**Galatians 4:4; Hebrews 9:15-16**).

Review Questions:

1) **Is Jesus referenced in the Old Testament? Where?**
2) **List at least 3 prophecies about Jesus that have been discussed in our study.**
3) **Which O. T. prophets are referenced by Matthew as he writes the story of Jesus?**
4) **Which Old Testament prophets does Peter reference when he preaches to the Jews on Pentecost?**
5) **Why are the first four New Testament books called "Gospels?"**
6) **What does "synoptic" mean?**
7) **In what ways is the Gospel of John quite different than the other three Gospel letters?**
8) **What makes the Gospel writers reliable authors?**
9) **List all of the Apostles.**

Lesson 10 – Christian Dispensation – *The Church of Christ*

Drill Questions:

1) Describe the term "Patriarchal Dispensation."

2) Give some Old Testament examples of patriarchal covenants.

3) What is the Jewish Dispensation?

4) Who marked the beginning and end of the Jewish Age, and which Bible books and chapters cover it?

5) List at least 3 Old Testament passages which point specifically to Christ.

6) How did Gospel writers use prophecy to prove Jesus? Site examples from Matthew's Gospel.

7) What are the "synoptics" and why are they so called?

8) How does John 20:30-31 explain the purpose for the four Gospels?

Chart #6 – CHRISTIAN DISPENSATION

Universal Covenant
With Christians

Time Covered:
2000+ Years

PENTECOST

<u>Jerusalem</u> — ***3 - 8 Years***
Acts 2-7

3,000 Converted on Pentecost (*Acts 2*)
More preaching and Growth (*Acts 3-5*)
7 men are selected to serve (*Acts 6*)
Stephen's defense and death (*Acts 7*)

<u>Judea, Samaria</u> — ***7 – 12 Years***
Acts 8-12

The Word beyond Jerusalem (Acts 8)
Saul of Tarsus is converted (Acts 9)
Peter preaches to Cornelius (Acts 10)
Peter teaches Gentile conversion (Acts 11)
Herod persecutes the church (Acts 12)

<u>Remotest Parts of the Earth</u> — ***2000+ Years***
Acts 13 – Revelation

Paul's 1st Missionary Journey (Acts 13-14)
The meeting of minds in Jerusalem (Acts 15)
Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey (Acts 16-18)
Paul's 3rd Missionary Journey (Acts 19-21)
Paul on trial in various courts (Acts 22-26)
Paul's shipwreck en route to Rome (Acts 27)
Paul in a Roman prison – 61-63 A.D. (Acts 28)

Letters written from 50-68 A.D. (Rom. – Jude)
Victory in Jesus for Christians! (Revelation)

JUDGMENT

THE -- This is not one of many, but "the" (a definite article) church of Christ.

-- **Unique –** (***I Peter 2:10-12***) – God's protected, set apart, holy people. Aliens and strangers on this earth.

-- **Unified –** (***Galatians 3:28-29***) – We are one in our relationship with Christ, not divided by race or position.

-- **Uniform –** (***Ephesians 4:3-6***) – There is but one body, in the unity of one Spirit, and the faith He reveals.

CHURCH -- The church is the body of people who are subject to Christ and saved through His blood.

-- **Believers – (John 20:30-31) –** The church is people who know who Jesus is and what He provides.

-- **Penitent Believers – (Acts 3:19; 26:20) –** The church is people who turn from their sins with humility.

-- **Baptized Believers – (I Corinthians 12:13)** – The church is a body of people who are baptized into Christ.

-- **Faithful Believers – (I Corinthians 15:58) –** The church consists of people who never stop serving God.

OF -- Don't overlook this great little word. It represents the idea of possession. We are Christ's church.

-- **Originating From – (*Matthew 16:16-18*)** – Christ built this body of saved people. He is our strength.

-- **Purchased By – (*Ephesians 1:5-8*)** – Jesus paid the price to erase the debt of sin and redeem His church.

-- **Possessed By – (*Ephesians 1:22-23*)** – We belong to Him. His leadership and authority dictates our lives.

CHRIST -- The focus of God's plan is not upon ourselves, but the One who is worthy of our worship.

-- **Proved through Miracles – (*Acts 2:22-23*)** – Miracles are God's way of proving the greatness of His Son.

-- **Fulfilled the Prophecies – (*Acts 2:24-28*)** – David, one thousand years earlier, spoke of His coming.

-- **Raised by His Father – (*Acts 2:29-32*)** – Death could not hold him, as the apostles witness with their own eyes.

-- **"God has made Him both Lord and Christ" – (*Acts 2:33-41*)** - He is the ruler from heaven. What shall we do?

Foretold in the Gospels

-- **Matthew 3:1-2 –** Christ's "Kingdom," his redemptive rule, was "at hand" during John the Baptist's ministry.

-- **Matthew 4:17 –** Jesus also announced that His rule over His people was soon to be established.

-- **Matthew 16:16-20 –** Jesus was soon to build His people, a people who would submit to His reign by faith.

Fulfilled in the book of Acts

-- **Acts 1:6-8 –** Before His ascension, it was clear the kingdom had not yet come, but would come with power!

-- **Acts 2:1-4, 33-37, 41, 47 –** Jesus now ruling, the Holy Spirit guided Peter to preach entrance into the church.

-- **Acts 9:31 –** The number of people who submitted to Jesus grew and spread all across the region.

Fortified in the Epistles

-- **Ephesians 3:8-21 –** Paul prays all will appreciate how amazing it is to be a part of God's "eternal purpose."

-- **Colossians 1:13-17 –** Living as His people and under His rule, Jesus is to be "first place in everything."

-- **Hebrews 12:18-29 –** Greater than Jews at the mountain, is Christ's church in His unshakeable kingdom.

The Book of Acts

-- Author and Date

- The book of Acts does not list an author. There is, however, solid evidence to attribute the book to Luke.

  -- There is great continuity between the book of Luke and Acts (**Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-3**).

  -- Notice they are written to the same man: Theophilus.

  -- The author of Acts was a close traveling companion with the Apostle Paul (**Acts 16:10-17**).

  -- Luke was a frequent traveler with Paul (**Colossians 4:14; II Timothy 4:11**).

- Luke is the only Gentile author in the Bible. His letters make up 28% of the New Testament chapters.

- Date: **63 A.D.** – This is based on the end of the letter (**Acts 28:30-31**), and the dating of Paul's two year imprisonment in Rome at 61-63 A.D.

-- Purpose of the Book

- Luke first wrote to Theophilus to lay out the account of Jesus' ministry, leading to Christ's ascension into heaven. Acts reveals the events that followed and the growth of the church over the next 30 years.

-- Outline of the Book - (The book of Acts can be outlined in two simple, yet beneficial ways).

- **3 Parts** (Based on **Acts 1:8**)

  -- **Acts 1-7 –** Jerusalem

  -- **Acts 8-12 –** Judea and Samaria

  -- **Acts 13-28 –** The Uttermost Parts of the Earth

- **2 Parts** (Based on the main character in the narrative.)

  -- **Acts 1-12 –** The Apostle Peter

  -- **Acts 13-28 –** The Apostle Paul

-- Relation to the Rest of the New Testament

- **Confirms the Gospel –** Acts includes miracles used to confirm the Gospel message (**Acts 2:11-12, 33; 14:3**).

- **Explains the Commission –** Acts details the mission Jesus gave the apostles (**Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:36-41**).

- **Provides Divine Commentary on the promised mission of the Holy Spirit.**

  -- Jesus promised miraculous Holy Spirit guidance to the apostles (**Luke 24:48-49; John 14:26; 16:13**).

  -- The book of Acts clearly demonstrates that only the apostles received it (**Acts 1:1-8; 2:43; 5:12**).

- **Provides Background Information to help with understanding and appreciating the Epistles.**

  -- **I Thessalonians 1:3-10** is best understand having first read **Acts 17:1-10.**

  -- **I Corinthians 16:8-9** is most likely referencing the event from **Acts 19:19-20**.

The Book of Acts (continued)

-- Vital information concerning the Church of Christ.

- The One Body – The body of the saved in Christ.

-- Founded on Faith in Christ - (**Acts 2:22-36; 3:12-26**).

-- Entered by Baptism in Water – (**Acts 2:36-41; 8:35-40; 22:16**).

-- Grew as Faithfulness Endured – (**Acts 8:1-8; 9:31**).

- Local Churches -- God's people working together locally.

-- A Local Contribution – (**Acts 2:45; 4:32-35; 11:27-30**).

-- The Lord's Supper – (**Acts 2:42; 20:7**).

-- Local Shepherds – (**Acts 11:30; 14:23; 15:2, 22; 20:17-35**).

ADDITIONAL NOTES

The Conversion of Cornelius

-- Cornelius is the first Gentile convert in Scripture – **Acts 10.**

- God used four miracles to confirm this choice.

-- (**10:3-4**) – Cornelius saw a vision.
-- (**10:9-16**) – Peter saw a vision.
-- (**10:17-19**) –The Spirit told Peter to go to Cornelius.
-- (**10:44-46**) – The Spirit gave Gentiles miraculous power.

- During these four days, Peter reached three conclusions.

-- (**10:28**) – "I should not call any man unholy or unclean."
-- (**10:34-35**) – "God is not one to show partiality."
-- (**10:44-45**) – "No one can refuse the water for these…"

- Peter later recounts all this to the Jews in Jerusalem (**Acts 11:1-18**).

Judaizing Teachers

-- Jewish teachers continue to enforce Moses' law upon Christians.

- This was a major issue in Jerusalem in 50 A.D. – (**Acts 15:1-29**).
- The Hebrews writer addressed the issue also – (**Hebrews 9:6-13**).
- The Apostle Paul often spoke against Judaism – (**Galatians 5:4**).

Distribution of Spiritual Gifts

-- Their Purpose – To Reveal and Confirm - (**Mark 16:17-20; Heb. 2:3-4**).

-- Their Transmission – Laying on of apostles' hands - (**Acts 8:14-18**)

-- Their Termination – When the complete has come - (**I Cor. 13:8-13**).

Review Questions:

1) **What events mark the beginning and end of the Christian dispensation?**

2) **How can Acts 1:8 be used to outline the Christian age?**

3) **What is "The Church of Christ"? Briefly describe the relevance of each of those four words.**

4) **How is the church foretold in the Gospels?**

5) **How is the church fulfilled in the book of Acts?**

6) **How is the church fortified by the New Testament epistles?**

7) **Who wrote the book of Acts and how do you know?**

8) **Explain this statement: "Acts is the background for the epistles?"**

Lesson 11 – Christian Dispensation – *Apostle to the Gentiles*

Drill Questions:

1) **How much time is covered exclusively by each:**

   Patriarchal Dispensation:

   Jewish Dispensation:

   Christian Dispensation:

2) **Explain the significance of each word below:**

   THE:

   CHURCH:

   OF:

   CHRIST:

3) **How does Acts 1:8 help us outline the book of Acts, as well as the Christian Age?**

4) **In what ways is Acts a sequel to the Gospels?**

5) **Name the only Gentile Bible author. What books did he write? What % of the New Testament is by his hand?**

Saul of Tarsus

-- His Life before Conversion

- Saul was a Jew, raised to follow the Law of Moses – **Acts 22:1-3**.

- Saul was a Pharisee (see page 32) – **Acts 23:6.**

- Saul was an adherent to Moses' Law who persecuted Christians.

  -- **Galatians 1:13-14; Acts 8:1-3; Acts 22:4-5; Acts 26:9-11**.

-- His Conversion to Christ

- The Book of Acts records Saul's conversion in three places:

  -- **Acts 9:1-22** – Luke writes the story as part of his narrative.

  -- **Acts 22:1-16** – Saul, now Paul, tells the story in Jerusalem.

  -- **Acts 26:1-18** – He tells the story to King Agrippa in Caesarea.

- Paul's conversion story carries important doctrinal significance:

  -- Apostles must witness Jesus raised – **Acts 1:21-22; 26:14-17.**

  -- Even after belief, baptism is required – **Acts 22:6-11, 16.**

  -- The mercy and grace of God are amazing! – **I Timothy 1:12-17**.

Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles

-- Apostles were selected by God, and inspired to do His work – **Acts 1:21-25**.

- Paul was selected by God – **Acts 9:15-16; Acts 26:16-18; I Co. 15:8-10.**

- Paul became an apostle to the Gentiles – **Romans 1:5; I Timothy 2:7.**

-- The Apostle Paul was committed to preaching Christ to the Gentiles.

- As a "prisoner of Christ Jesus" – **Ephesians 3:1-10**.

- Through incomprehensible difficulties – **II Corinthians 11:23-29**.

- Even unto death for the cause of Christ – **II Timothy 4:6-8**.

Details of Paul's Apostleship

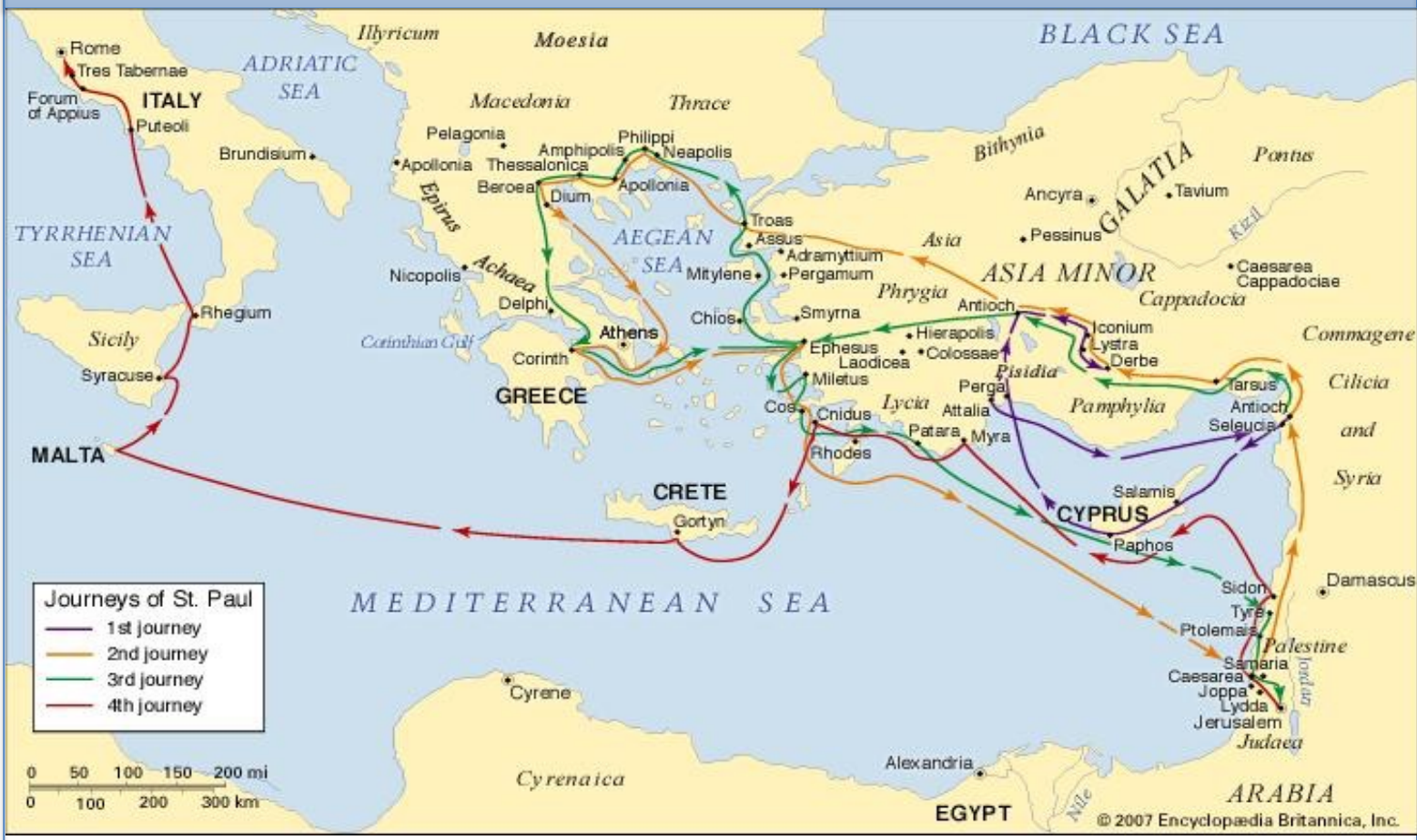
-- Paul's ministry extended over about 35 years. (33 – 68 A.D.)

-- He embarked on 3 missionary journeys amounting to about 7,000 miles!

-- After the missions, he endured two major imprisonments in Rome.

-- Paul authored 13 New Testament letters during his ministry.

-- He was put to death by Nero, in Rome, after the second imprisonment.



Paul's First Journey -- **Acts 13:1 – 14:28** (c. 45-49 A.D.) c. 1000 miles

-- Paul and Barnabas establish churches in many cities, including Lystra, Iconium and Derbe.

-- He endures his first stoning at the hands of the Jews while in Derbe – **Acts 14:19.**

-- Paul kept right on preaching, and even helped establish elderships in the cities – **Acts 14:20-23.**

Paul's Second Journey -- Acts 15:36 – 18:22 (c. 51-53 A.D.) c. 2800 miles

-- Paul and Silas depart to preach and pick up Timothy soon after – **Acts 15:40-16:5.**

-- Luke records two conversions from Paul's trip to Philippi – **Acts 16:12-15, 25-34**.

-- Paul spends at least a year and a half in Corinth before returning home to Antioch – **Acts 18:8-11, 18.**

Paul's Third Journey -- Acts 18:23 – 21:17 (c. 54-58 A.D.) c. 2500 miles

-- Paul came to Ephesus and stayed with them for at least two years. His teaching caused a huge stir – **Acts 19**.

-- He and Luke sailed from Philippi to Troas, taking the Lord's Supper on *"the first day of the week"* – **Acts 20:7**.

-- Paul met with the elders of Ephesus to discuss God's plan for shepherding work – **Acts 20:17-35**.

Paul's Journey to Rome -- Acts 27:1 – 28:14 (c. 60-61 A.D.) c. 2300 miles

-- Sailing from Crete, Paul and the crew suffered a shipwreck. He preached all along the way! – **Acts 27:21-38.**

-- They came ashore at the island of Malta, where Paul worked miracles – **Acts 28:1-10**.

-- Paul arrives in Rome for his first imprisonment and is there under guard for two years – **Acts 28:30-31.**

Chart #7 - The Epistles of Paul

Letter	Date	Written From	Journey	Scriptures
Galatians	?	?	?	***Acts 14:6; 16:3,6; 18:23***
I Thessalonians	c. 51	Corinth	2nd	***Acts 17:1-15; 18:1-21***
II Thessalonians	c. 51	Corinth	2nd	***Acts 17:1-15; 18:1-21***
I Corinthians	c. 57	Ephesus	3rd	***Acts 18:1-21; 19; I Co. 16:5-9***
II Corinthians	c. 57	Macedonia	3rd	***Acts 20:1; II Co. 2:12-13; 7:5ff***
Romans	c. 57-58	Corinth	3rd	***Acts 20:2-3; Ro. 15:25; 16:1, 23***
Ephesians *	c. 61-63	Rome (prison)		***Acts 28:16-31***
Colossians *	c. 61-63	Rome (prison)		***Acts 28:16-31***
Philemon *	c. 61-63	Rome (prison)		***Acts 28:16-31***
Philippians *	c. 61-63	Rome (prison)		***Acts 28:16-31***
I Timothy +	c. 63-68	Macedonia ?		***I Timothy 1:3***
Titus +	c. 63-68	?		***Titus 1:4-5***
II Timothy +	c. 66-68	Rome (2nd imprisonment)		***II Ti. 1:8, 16-17; 4:6-8, 16-18***

** Commonly called "prison epistles." Though he did write at least one other letter from prison.*

+ Commonly called "pastoral epistles." This is a misnomer, as he wrote to preachers, not pastors.

Purpose of the Epistles

-- These letters give instruction and motivation to Christians to be faithful to Christ.

- Romans 15:14-15; I Corinthians 4:14-17; Ephesians 4:1; I Thessalonians 4:1-2.

Paul's 13 Epistles

Galatians is a region that likely includes the cities Lystra, Iconium and Derbe. Paul visited there multiple times during his journeys. This letter addresses the brethren's need to stay true to the Truth they were taught (**1:6-9**). Specifically, they were being influenced by Judaizing teaches, who came in after Paul's departure and taught adherence to Moses' Law (**3:1-6**). The ultimate message is that we are set free from sin by Christ, not the Law of Moses (**5:1-4**), and belonging to Christ, we should live by the Spirit (**5:22-26**).

I Thessalonians was written not long after Paul left the city of Thessalonica. His visit there had been incredibly encouraging (**1:2-10**). But there was also much opposition to the faith in that city (**Acts 17:5-9**). Paul had recently sent Timothy back to check on them (**I Th. 3:1-5**). Now he writes this follow up letter, which carries a simple, recurring message: "Excel Still More" (**3:13; 4:1; 4:10**). This growth is nicely laid out as a concise list of 17 attributes that should live in every Christian (**5:12-22**).

II Thessalonians was likely written shortly after the first letter. Paul is likely still at Corinth, where he worked for over a year and a half (**Acts 18:11**). It is clear that the Thessalonians have been doing very well (**II Th. 1:3-4**). Paul expressed that God will punish the persecutors (**1:5-10**), and that they should not be led astray by any false teachers among them (**2:1-12**). Never forsake the "Truth" (**2:13-3:2**).

I Corinthians was written while Paul was in Ephesus, during his third preaching journey (**I Co. 16:8**). While he began by encouraging the brethren, he ultimately had to deal with issues that had arisen (**I Co. 1:4-10**). They had division among them, with several causes (**1:11-13**). Paul implores them to do what is right and remain focused on Christ's coming (**15:50-58**).

II Corinthians was likely penned several months after the first, once Paul had travelled to Macedonian (**II Co. 2:12-13**). It is a letter of rejoicing! The first letter was direct, but it lead them to repent (**2:1-5; 7:8-11**). Having unity again, he pressed on to the matter of a contribution for needy saints (**8:4; 9:1**).

Romans was written near the end of Paul's third journey, and likely from the city of Corinth (**Ro. 15:25**). Paul had not yet been to Rome (**1:13**), but deals with the godless local culture, and then largely focuses on salvation by Christ's Law over all other law (**8:1-14**). He also speaks of the need for unity (**15:1-7**).

Ephesians is one of four letters Paul wrote while he was in a Roman prison (**Acts 28:30-31**). He knew the brethren there well from his recent trips. Now imprisoned, he reminds them how special they are in Christ (**1:3-14**) and how they should live and walk in a way worthy of their calling (**4:1-3; 5:1-2, 15-16**).

Colossians is a second letter Paul wrote from the Roman prison. The city was about 100 miles East of Ephesus. We have no record Paul had ever been there. But they were his brethren, and this letter is very similar to Ephesians, emphasizing blessings in Christ (**1:9-20**) and living godly in Him (**3:1-11**).

Philemon is Paul's shortest letter, also written from prison. Paul converted Onesimus in prison, a slave who had run from Philemon (**1:10-11**). Philemon is encouraged to receive him back as a fellow brother in Christ (**1:10-20**).

Philippians was also written from a Roman prison. Paul had converted people to Christ in Philippi during his second journey (**Acts 16:12-40**). Now, ten years later, and from prison, Paul encourages them to live in unity in Christ (**1:27-2:2**), serve like Christ served (**2:3-11**) and "Rejoice Always!" (**4:4-13**).

I Timothy was written sometime after Paul's release from prison. Perhaps it was written from Macedonia (**1:3**). Paul and Timothy had a special, father-son like relationship (**Acts 16:1-5; I Ti. 1:1-2**). Timothy was charged to preach the Truth in Ephesus (**1:3-5**), including teaching about overseers (**3:1-7**) He was charged to guard the Truth and share it, no matter what (**4:11-16; 6:20-21**).

Titus was a travelling companion with Paul in his mission work. Now that Paul has been released from prison, he takes Titus to the island of Crete and leaves him there to preach. This letter is written after and encourages Titus to "appoint elders" (**1:5-9**) and teach all ages to be instructed by grace (**2:1-15**).

II Timothy is Paul's final letter. He is once again in a Roman prison, and this time will not be released (**4:6-8**). These are his final instructions to his beloved son Timothy. "Do not be ashamed" of the Gospel (**1:8-14**), be diligent in accurately handling the Word (**2:15**), preach to all men and in all seasons (**4:1-5**), and know that the Lord is, and will always be, with you (**4:16-18**).

Review Questions:

1) **Why did Saul of Tarsus persecute Christians?**
2) **What changed Saul's mind and where is that recorded?**
3) **What qualifies Saul, now Paul, to be an Apostle for Jesus?**
4) **What does it mean to say that Paul was "the apostle to the Gentiles?"**
5) **How many journeys did Paul embark upon and who were some of his companions?**
6) **Why did Paul travel to Rome after his third journey?**
7) **Why is a study of Acts so important to understanding Paul's epistles?**
8) **How many epistles did Paul write and over how many years did he write them?**

Lesson 12 – Christian Dispensation – *To Revelation and Beyond*

Drill Questions:

1) **Define the term "Christian Dispensation."**

2) **Why did Saul of Tarsus attack Christians?**

3) **In what three places does the book of Acts record Saul's conversion to Christ?**

4) **How is Saul's conversion a testament to God's grace?**

5) **Name the 13 letters written by the Apostle Paul.**

6) **During Paul's three journeys, in what cities did he spend quite a long time?**

7) **What is the purpose for the epistles that Paul wrote?**

8) **How does Acts help us understand the epistles?**

New Testament Writers

-- The New Testament consists of 27 letters, written by 9 prophets:

- Matthew	(1)	The gospel of Matthew
- Mark	(1)	The gospel of Mark
- Luke	(2)	The gospel of Luke and the book of Acts
- John	(5)	The gospel of John, I,II, III John, and Revelation
- Paul	(13)	Thirteen Epistles
- Peter	(2)	I and II Peter
- James	(1)	The book of James
- Jude	(1)	The book of Jude
- Unknown	(1)	The book of Hebrews

-- We have looked closely at the Gospels, Acts, and Paul's letters. Let's examine the other New Testament authors and their work.

Peter, the Apostle

-- **Peter's Life Before Jesus.**

- Peter was a Galilean fisherman – **Mark 1:16-20; John 21:1-3.**
- He was initially called to Jesus by his brother Andrew – **John 1:35-42**.

-- **Peter during Jesus Ministry.**

- He was very Inquisitive – **Matthew 15:15; 18:21; 19:27; John 21:20-22.**
- He often took Initiative – **Matt. 14:26-28; 16:13-17; 17:4; John 20:4-6.**
- He sometimes was Impetuous – **John 18:10-11; Mt. 26:31-35, 74-75**.

-- **Peter after the death of Jesus.**

- He and all the apostles quickly gave in to fear – **John 20:19.**
- He and all the apostles were chastised for unbelief – **Mark 16:14.**

-- **Peter after seeing Jesus alive again.**

- He was forever changed by Jesus Resurrection – **Acts 1:15-22; 2:14-36.**
- He preached the Truth no matter what – **Acts 4:19-22; 11:2, 16-17.**

-- **Peter wrote two Letters**

I Peter was addressed to "aliens" scattered all over Asia Minor. The year is around 62 A.D. Christians are being persecuted and Peter assures them their inheritance is secure if they stay true to Christ (**1:1-9**). The middle portion of the letter challenged the Christians to do the things that God demands (**1:13-16; 2:11-17; 3:8-12; 4:8-10**). As Peter closes the letter, he again compels them to hold fast during their suffering, knowing eternal glory awaits (**4:14-16; 5:9-11**).

II Peter is a follow up to the first letter and consists of three chapters. Chapter 1 speaks to the authenticity and power of the apostles' letters (**1:1-4, 16-21**). Chapter 2 warns against the false teachers who seek to destroy faith (**2:1-3**). Chapter 3 reminds Christians that Jesus is coming again, and we must continue to grow in grace and knowledge so we can be ready (**3:8-13, 17-18**).

James

-- The Lord's Brother

- Jesus had half brothers and sisters, of whom James is one (**Matthew 13:55-56; Galatians 1:19**).

- James, the Lords' half brother, now a bondservant of Christ, pens this letter to Christians (**James 1:1**).

- This is not James, the apostles, mentioned in the Gospels (**Mark 3:16-19; Acts 12:1-2**).

-- Shepherd in the Jerusalem Church

- James was an elder for the Jerusalem church and was very knowledgeable (**Acts 12:17; 15:12-21; 21:18**).

- James was highly respected and his letter would have carried much weight in and around Jerusalem.

-- James wrote one Letter

James was written "to the twelve tribes dispersed abroad." This is perhaps the most practical, and daily useful, letter in the Bible. James opens with the need to persevere in all trials (**1:2-8, 12**). He emphasizes that a relationship with the Word is the key to strength (**1:18-25**). We must treat one another with fairness and equality (**2:1-5**), showing true faith by the works we choose to perform in Jesus name (**2:14-20**). This includes the daily need to control the words that come out of our mouths (**3:1-12**), and also the pride that can overtake us (**4:1-10**). He closes the letter like he opens it, focusing our attention on prayer (**5:13-18**).

Jude

--The Lord's Brother

- Jude, like James, is related to Jesus through Mary (**Matthew 13:55-56**).

- Jude, with the other brothers, did not believe in Jesus at first (**John 7:5**).

- He is now a "bondservant of Christ," just like his brother James (**Jude 1:1**).

-- Jude wrote one letter

Jude was intended to be a letter about "our common salvation," but instead he felt the need to write concerning the need to "contend earnestly for the faith" (**1:3**). This short letter is largely devoted to noting sinful, rebellious men, who have crept in amongst the brethren (**1:4, 11-12, 17-19**). Ultimately, a Christian's greatest defense against such men is acting faithfully before God and dealing rightly with sinners (**1:21-23**).

Hebrews

-- **Author Unknown**

- Though heavily debated, no one is certain who wrote the book of Hebrews.

- **Hebrews 2:2-4** – This passage seems to indicate it was a first century Christian who was not an apostle.

Hebrews was written to exclaim the superiority of Christ and His priesthood (**1:1-3; 2:17; 3:1; 4:14**). Jesus is better than angels (**1:4**) and Moses (**3:3**). His rule and priesthood bring a better hope (**7:19**), covenant (**7:22**), ministry (**8:6**) and better promises (**8:6**). He entered into the better tabernacle (**9:11**), offering better sacrifices (**9:14,23**). He has promised the faithful a better possession (**10:34**), better country (**11:16**), and a better resurrection (**11:35**). As a response to all of these wonderful things in Christ, the letter beckons for God's people to work together to do great things: Let us fear (**4:1**), let us be diligent (**4:11**), let us hold fast (**4:14**), let us draw near (**4:16**), let us press on (**6:1**), let us draw near again (**10:22**), let us hold fast again (**10:23**), let us consider (**10:24**), let us lay aside (**12:1**), let us run with endurance (**12:1**), let us go out to Him (**13:13**), and let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God (**13:15**).

John, the Apostle.

-- **John's Life Before Jesus.**

- John, and his brother James, are Galilean fisherman and partners with Peter – **Luke 5:8-11**
- Like Peter and Andrew, John and his brother left everything to follow Jesus – **Mark 1:16-20**.

-- **John during Jesus Ministry.**

- Jesus called James and John "*Sons of Thunder*" – **Mark 3:17.**
- John and James may have been called such because of one particular incident – **Luke 9:49-56.**
- John was one of Jesus' three closest companions – **Matthew 17:1-8; 26:36-38.**
- He refers to himself in the gospel as "*the one whom Jesus loved*" – **John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:20.**

-- **John after the death of Jesus.**

- He ran to the tomb with Peter. He believed but did not understand – **John 20:1-10**.
- John too was overtaken with fear until Christ appeared to them – **John 20:19.**

-- **John after seeing Jesus alive again.**

- John stood with the Apostles on Pentecost and taught with Peter afterward – **Acts 2:14; 4:13-22.**
- The last we read of John in Acts is when he and Peter go to Samaria and encounter Simon – **Acts 8:14-24.**
- While John's brother was the first apostle martyred (**Acts 12:1-2**), most contend John was the longest living apostle, and perhaps the only one not to be put to death for the faith.

-- **John wrote five Letters.**

The Gospel of John was likely written after the other gospels, perhaps as late as 90 A.D. Regardless of date, the purpose of the book is clear: *"Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name"* (**John 20:30-31**). John places great emphasis on the "testimony" for Jesus by John the Baptist, the Father, and the Scriptures, and Christ Himself (**5:30-39**). Uniquely, nearly half of the letter concerns the last week of Jesus' life (**Ch. 12-21**).

I John was likely written around the time of the Gospel of John. Little is known about the recipients. However, the content is of incredible value to all Christians. John deals with issues like "fellowship" and what it means to share in it with God and others (**1:1-10**). John deals at great length with the need to love God and demonstrate that love by obeying God's commandments (**2:3-5; 5:1-3**). Tied closely to this is the utmost importance of loving God's people with a sacrificial and service filled love (**2:7-10; 3:14-18; 4:7-21**). If we are in fellowship with God and God's people we can live with confidence of eternal life (**5:13**).

II John was written by "the elder to the chosen lady and her children" (**1:1**). This may represent a local church or perhaps a family. John quickly emphasizes the importance of "truth" (**1:1-4**). He goes on to warn the brethren that some may come who are "deceivers" and they should not be received into fellowship.

III John was sent by "the elder to the beloved Gaius" (**1:1**). Again, the main connection walking in the "truth" (**1:3-8**). John goes on to mention two men. Diotrephes, who was in their local church and harmful to it. And Demetrius, a man of faith. John hoped to be there soon to address issues in person.

Revelation has been dated anywhere from 65 A.D. to 95 A.D. John is clearly addressing the letter to "seven churches" throughout Asia (**1:11**). John taught things from Jesus that was directly for those churches (**Ch. 2-3**). But he also related truths that applied to persecuted Christians in every region. While the book is highly symbolic and very challenging in spots, the main thrust of the message is found in **Revelation 17:14**: *"These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is the Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful."*

Beyond the First Century

It has been over 1900 years since the last New Testament letter was penned. In some ways, things have changed drastically. Specifically, in terms of how God spoke, and revealed His will to man. However, some things continue even today! Some elements of what God established through Christ will live on to the judgment day and beyond, into the eternal courts of heaven.

-- Beyond the first century, new revelation from God has ceased.

- Apostles, who received power on Pentecost, died (**Acts 2:1-4**).
- Those who had gifts by the apostles hands also died (**Acts 8:14-19**).
- Miraculous gifts died along with them **(Mark 16:20; I Co. 13:8-13**).

-- Beyond the first century, wonderful things from God have continued!

- We continue to have the inspired Word of God (**II Pet. 1:1-4, 16-21).**
- We continue to live under the Christian Dispensation (**Eph. 3:8-13**).
- We continue to find protection in Christ's Kingdom (**Col. 1:13-18**).

-- Beyond the first century lives the promise of an eternity with God!

- Even today, we can be forgiven of our sins (**Acts 2:36-41**).
- Even today, we can rejoice in hope of eternal life (**Romans 5:1-10**).
- Even today, we can anticipate the return of our King (**II Pet. 3:10-13**).

There's A Great Day Coming

-- The greatest Demonstration of Power will be seen (**II Thess. 1:7-9**).

-- The greatest Resurrection will occur (**John 5:28-29; I Cor. 15:50-52**).

-- The greatest Crowd will be assembled (**Matthew 25:31-32**).

-- The greatest Judge will preside over us all (**Matt. 25:31; II Timothy 4:8**).

-- The greatest Books will be opened (**Revelation 20:11-12; John 12:48**).

-- The greatest Separation ever known will occur (**Matthew 25:31-33**).

-- The greatest Verdict will follow (**Matthew 25:34, 41**).

A Final Word

We have seen the workings of God from Genesis to Revelation, and beyond. We have pieced together the plan to send Jesus as Savior of the world. We have even read about what is coming, and the glory of Christ to be seen. In conclusion, perhaps the apostle John sums up the Bible best: *"Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name"* (**John 20:30-31**).

Review Questions:

1) **How many authors penned the New Testament?**
2) **What are some qualities that Peter uniquely possessed?**
3) **Why did Peter write his first letter to Christians? What were they facing?**
4) **What is the relationship between these two authors: James and Jude?**
5) **Can you sum up the purpose of the Hebrew letter in one sentence?**
6) **What are some qualities we learn about John from the Gospels?**
7) **Recite John 20:30-31**
8) **When was Revelation written and what is the main message of the book?**

Lesson 13 – Appendix – *100 Bible Survey Questions*

1) What are the two major divisions of the Bible?
   - In the Old Testament?
   - In the New Testament?
2) How many books are in the Bible?
3) Give the names of the Old Testament books in order.
4) Give the names of the New Testament books in order.
5) Which books of the Old Testament are commonly called the books of
   - "law"?
   - "history"?
   - "poetry"?
   - "prophecy"?
6) What books are commonly called the "major prophets"?
   - Why are they called that?
7) What books are commonly called the "minor prophets?"
   - Why are they called that?
8) Which books of the New Testament are
   - biographical?
   - historical?
   - doctrinal?
   - prophetic?
9) Approximately how many authors wrote the Bible?
10) About when was the first book written (date)?
11) About when was the last book written (date)?
12) In a brief phrase or statement, tell what the following books are about
   - Genesis
   - Exodus
   - Leviticus
   - Numbers
   - Deuteronomy
   - Joshua
   - Judges
   - Ruth
   - I and II Samuel
   - I and II Kings
   - I and II Chronicles
   - Ezra
   - Nehemiah
   - Esther
   - Job

- Psalms
- Proverbs
- Ecclesiastes
- Song of Solomon
- Prophets
- Gospels
- Acts
- Epistles
- Revelation

13) Why are the following books so named? (What do their titles signify?)
- "Genesis"
- "Exodus"
- "Leviticus"
- "Numbers"
- "Deuteronomy"
- "Psalms"
- "Ecclesiastes"
- "Acts"
- "Hebrews"
- "Revelation:

14) What is a "covenant"?
- May it have conditions to be met?

15) What is a "dispensation"?

16) What are the three dispensations of the Bible?
- Why are they called that?

17) What person marks the beginning of each one?

18) How much time is covered in each? (Years)

19) What books in the Bible deal with each?

20) What is the work of a "prophet"?

21) What is the work of a "priest?"

22) Why is man unique in God's creation?

23) Who was the first man and woman?

24) Why did they die?

25) What is "sin"?

26) What consequences are suffered by the human race due to the first man's sin?

27) What is the penalty each person suffers for his own sin?

28) Where is the first promise of a Redeemer found? (book, chapter, verse)

29) Who were the noted sons of the first couple?

30) What happened to the youngest?

31) Who took his place in the lineage?

32) Who is the next important person you read about in the Bible? (Four chapters about him.)

33) Who were his sons?

34) Which of these is the one through whom Christ came?

35) Who is the next important person you read about in the Bible? (The first "Hebrew")

36) Who was his wife?

37) What command did he receive from God about where to live?

38) What are the three promises contained in the notable covenant God made with him?

31) - Where is it found? (Book, chapter, and verses)

39) What is the name of the land promised to his physical descendants?

40) Who was his son by his wife's maid?

31) - What was the maid's name?

41) Who was his son of promise?

31) - What was Isaac's wife's name?

42) Who were Isaac's sons?

43) What were the names of Jacob's wives?

44) Who are the "children of Israel"? (Where do they get this name?)

45) Name Jacob's 13 children.

46) Jacob's 12 sons became the heads of what?

47) How did they come to live in Egypt?

48) Who led them out of Egypt?

49) Who was the deliverer's brother?

31) - What was his sister's name?

50) What is the name of the land he led them to? (But not into)

51) Where was the "Law of Moses" given? (Geographical location)

52) To whom was it given? (What nation?)

53) Why was it given?

54) It was intended to last until when?

55) Why did the people have to wander in the wilderness?

56) How long did they have to wander in the wilderness?

57) Who led the people into the promised land?

58) How were they governed after they entered the land?

59) Who were the first three kings of the nation of Israel?

60) How long did each king reign?

61) When did the kingdom divide? (Under what ruler? What date?)

62) What period do the prophetic books fall into: united kingdom or divided kingdom?

63) Who was the first king of each segment of the divided kingdom?

64) What notable Messianic promise was made to the second king?

65) What was the northern kingdom called?

66) What was the southern kingdom called?

67) When did the northern kingdom end? (Date)

- What nation conquered them and took them captive?

68) When was the southern kingdom taken into captivity? (Date)

69) Where were they taken?

70) Who was the leader of the army and nation that conquered them?

71) Who led the first return from captivity and what was the date?

72) Who led the second return from captivity and what was the date?

73) Who led the third return from captivity and what was the date?

74) About what date was the last Old Testament book written?

75) What were the six world empires concurrent with Bible history?

76) Where was Christ born?

77) Who was His mother?

78) Who was His legal, but not fleshly, father?

79) Who was Christ's forerunner?

80) How long did Jesus' ministry last?

81) How old was He when He died?

82) Where was He crucified?

83) Why did He die?

84) When was He raised? (What day of the week?)

85) What is the evidence of His resurrection?

86) What is the "church"?

87) On what is the church founded?

88) When did the "kingdom of Christ" begin?

89) What are the names of the first 12 apostles?

90) Who betrayed Jesus?

91) Who replaced that man as an apostle?

92) Who was the "apostle to the Gentiles"? (Give both of his Bible names)

93) How can the book of Acts be broken down into three sections?

94) Who was the first Gentile convert?

95) Where is that man's conversion recorded? (Two chapters)

96) What books of the New Testament are commonly called "synoptic," and why?

97) What books of the New Testament are commonly called "pastoral" books?

98) What books of the New Testament are commonly called "prison" epistles?

99) How many New Testament books did the apostle Paul write?

- How many books did the apostle John write?

100) What is the last written New Testament book?

- What is the main theme of that final book?