

X. MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, AND JOHN: GOD SENDS JESUS TO BE THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD

- From slightly differing perspectives, these four gospel ("good news") authors collectively describe Jesus' earthly life. . . his birth, accomplishments, claims, new covenant of forgiveness, and his suffering, death and resurrection.

- An earthly descendant of Abraham and David, Jesus claims to be the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies of God sending a divine savior to Israel and then to the world, one who establishes God's kingdom throughout the world.

- He ministers publicly for only about 3 years and only within the Jewish nation of Israel; but he instructs his followers to spread his message and make followers throughout earth until the end of the world as we know it.

- Time span: over 33 years, the length of Jesus' earthly life. (Jesus was born around 4 BC.)

XI. ACTS: GOD'S SALVATION STARTS SPREADING THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

- The Holy Spirit comes on Jesus' disciples. Despite severe opposition, they spread the message of Jesus and rapidly gain more followers starting in Jerusalem, then the surrounding area of Judea, then nearby Samaria, and then throughout the rest of the world, penetrating Asia, Europe and Africa.

- As people believe in Jesus, people experience God and his power and lives dramatically change, resulting in churches springing up all over the Roman Empire.

- The story mainly follows Peter, one of Jesus' original 12 disciples and an early church leader, and Paul, a Jewish oppressor of Christians who has an experience with Jesus, converts, and spreads the faith to many non-Jews.

- All of the Epistles take place during this time, or shortly afterwards, and they are instructions to followers of Christ by early Christian leaders. (The New Testament prophetic book, Revelation, was written a few decades later and describes a vision of a coming world judgment and Christ's return to earth.)

- Time span of Acts: from about 30 AD to 62 AD. (The book ends with Paul under house arrest in Rome and much action still taking place.)

十、马太福音、马可福音、路加福音和约翰福音：上帝差遣耶稣作为全地的救世主

--从略为不同的角度，四福音书的作者们描述了耶稣在世上的生活历程...他的出生、成就、教导、赦罪的新约、以及他的受难、死亡和复活。

--就肉身而言他是亚伯拉罕和大卫的子孙，耶稣宣告他就是旧约中所预言关于上帝要差遣的那位神圣的救世主，先在以色列、然后到全地的，他要在全地建立神的国度。

--耶稣的公开传道只有大约三年时间，而且只是在以色列境内的犹太人中间；但是他教导他的门徒传他所教训的，并且将福音遍布全地，直到世界的末了。

--时间跨度：大约33年，正是耶稣道成肉身、在地上生活的时间（耶稣大约出生于公元前4年）。

十一、使徒行传：上帝的救恩开始传遍全地

--圣灵降临在耶稣的门徒的身上。尽管敌对严重，耶稣的门徒仍然努力传播耶稣的福音，并且从耶路撒冷开始、然后在犹太地，撒玛利亚附近乃至通过世界的其它各地进入亚洲、欧洲和非洲，迅速赢得更多的信徒。

--当人们相信耶稣的时候，他们经历神和神的大能，生命发生奇妙的改变，从而导致了教会在整个罗马帝国的繁衍。

--使徒行传的中心人物是彼得和保罗。彼得是耶稣最早的12门徒之一、早期教会的领袖人物；保罗开始反对基督教、后来经历耶稣的大能，皈依基督，在非犹太人中间传播基督教真谛。

--所有的使徒书信都写于这个时期，或者稍后一段时间。这些书信是早期教会领袖对基督信徒的教导。（新约中的预言书--启示录，写于数十年之后，描写了未来的世界审判和基督再来的异像。）

--使徒行传所表现的事件发生在公元30年到62之间。（这本书以保罗在罗马被捕结束，许多事情仍在进行）。

A Short Guide to the Bible

圣经简要指南

Contents: 目录

- A Key Selections Bible Reading Plan

圣经纲要阅读计划

- Timelines of the Old & New Testaments

旧约及新约年代表

- A Brief Survey of Biblical History

圣经历史纵览

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(Note for first time Bible readers: To make things easier to find in the Bible, Biblical books are divided into chapters, and chapters are divided into verses. In the Bible, large numbers on the pages indicate chapters and smaller numbers indicate verses. The standard way to refer to a passage in the Bible is to list the Biblical book's name, then the chapter number, then a colon, then the verse number(s). For example, Genesis 1 is Genesis chapter 1, Genesis 12:15 is Genesis chapter 12, verse 15, and Genesis 16:1-18:15 is Genesis chapter sixteen, verse one, through chapter 18, verse 15.)

(圣经初读者请注意: 圣经为便于查询，其书籍分为章，章又分为节。圣经中，书写大的数目表示章，书写小的数目表示节。涉及圣经某个信息，标准的提法是先列出圣经的书名，再列出章的数目，后接冒号，再就是节的数目。例如，创世记 1 指创世记第一章；创世记 12:15 指创世记第12章15节；创世记 16:1-18:15 指创世记第16章1节至第18章15节。)

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Introduction to the Key Selections Bible Reading Plan

A lot of people want to read and understand the Bible. However, typically what happens is that a person starts at the first page, reads until the third or fourth book, then gives up—feeling lost, confused or bewildered. The problem is that the Bible is a collection of 66 books of various literary types and the significance of each section is often easily not seen apart from careful study. Also parts are like a textbook that contains important information but is not very interesting reading. Fortunately, many parts of the Bible are very readable.

This plan is a guide to the parts which (according to the author's understanding and opinion) are:

- Important -- Fairly understandable (when read in order)
- Interesting reading -- Give an overview of the whole Bible

How are the readings organized?

The Old Testament readings and the New Testament readings are arranged in chronological order and are grouped according to major occurrences. For sections that are very long (e.g., Old Testament Laws), only a sampling has been included. Even though all of the Old Testament events happened and were written hundreds of years before the New Testament, Old and New Testament readings are alternated to get you into the New Testament sooner and to help you compare and contrast the two testaments.

The individual selections are around four chapters long and deal (usually) with one main topic. Understanding them, however, often depends on the previous selections. So it is highly recommended you read them in order.

How long will it take?

Depending on your reading speed and depth of attention, each individual selection should take about 15 to 30 minutes to read. There are about 60 selections. If you read one new selection a day, you will finish in about two months. If you read one a week, you will take a little over a year.

How can I get the most out of my readings?

To help keep straight with what is going on in your readings, regularly consult the timelines and "A Brief Survey of Bible History" in this booklet, or use some other short Bible guide.

However, the Bible is not just a record of events. The Bible claims to give knowledge of God and understanding of our selves, as well as direction into how to have a relationship with God and experience fulfilling life. For each selection, ask yourself three questions:

- 1) What is this saying about God (and Christ)? (What he is like, cares about, and what his intentions are)
- 2) What is this saying about people? (What we are like, care about, and what our intentions are)
- 3) What is this saying about my life? (What my life is like, what I care about, and what my intentions are)

Lastly, as you come upon parts you do not understand, or do not make sense to you, see if you can talk with someone who knows the Bible well to find help. To go more in depth, you may also want to join in a Bible study group (if you are not already in one).

五、撒母耳记上、下：在确立了一个“大众”国王之后，上帝拣选了一个献身于神的国王统治以色列，并和他立约

- 为了回答人民需要一个君王的要求，上帝批准先知撒母耳膏立扫罗为以色列的第一个国王。
- 虽然强健、仪表堂堂，但是扫罗偏离真道，固执己见；因此，上帝指示撒母耳膏立牧羊娃大卫为新王。
- 直到扫罗死后数年，大卫才登上王位。他一登基，就确立耶路撒冷为首都；他统一了全国，并领导以色列人民最终占领了所有的应许之地。
- 大卫一生中显示出性格和行为的前后不一；但是他献身于上帝，上帝也和他立约，保证大卫王的一个子孙将登上王位，而且他的王国将持续永远。
- 诗体作品诗篇(抒情诗集)中的大部分都是大卫王这一时期写成的。
- 撒母耳上、下中的事件涵盖了100多年的时间(大约公元前1000年以前大卫王开始其统治)。

六、列王记上、下：由于以色列的后裔不断违背神的旨意，上帝惩罚甚至抛弃了以色列

- 所罗门继承父亲大卫的王位，在耶路撒冷建立圣殿，用智慧领导以色列...但是，他娶了许多外邦女子为妻，并最终开始崇拜其它神。
- 在他死后，以色列分裂成两个国家：
南国“犹大”，包括耶路撒冷、圣殿、犹大和便雅悯的部族，统治者是大卫王的一个后裔。
- 北国“以色列”，包括其余的十个部落。因为多流血政变导致了高于这个王国之上的数个朝代。
- 北国忽视了以利亚、以利沙等先知的预言性警告，最终亡国，被亚述人掳到亚述，从此再也没有返回故土。
- 犹大国在短期内回归上帝，但是北国覆灭后过了大约一百年，犹大重蹈覆辙。耶路撒冷被攻陷，犹大国民被巴比伦军队掳到巴比伦。
- 先知耶利米预言犹大的被掳将是暂时的，因为上帝将让那些幸存的忠实的臣民回到应许之地(他预言一个新的、更好的契约将要到来。)
- 所罗门的诗体作品箴言，传道书和雅歌都是他在位期间的创作。从所罗门退位到被掳到巴比伦的数百年间，出现了一些传道的先知。除了最后六篇，所有的先知书都是关于这些先知的。
- 列王记上、下记载的事件持续了数百年(耶路撒冷被巴比伦人劫掠发生在公元前600年前后)。

七、历代志上、下：撒母耳记上、下和列王记上、下所记载的事件的重述。

八、以斯拉记、尼希米记和以斯帖记：幸存的忠实的臣民回到应许之地

- 时间延续：以斯拉发生在耶路撒冷陷落后70年。正是先知耶利米所预言的时间阶段。(预言书耶利米哀歌、以西结书和但以理书，都是在被掳到巴比伦这一期间写成的)。
- 巴比伦被波斯人占领。波斯王赛鲁士允许犹太人回到犹大地。
- 在这一百年间，犹太人主要分为三组回归，先后由所罗巴伯、以斯拉和尼希米率领。
- 以斯拉记描述耶路撒冷圣殿是如何重建的；尼希米记描述了耶路撒冷的护城墙的重建；以斯帖记表现以斯帖如何成为波斯皇后，以及她如何利用自己的影响解救她的犹太同胞。
- 重归故园的犹太人显示出对服从上帝的重要性的密切关注。
- 最后三部先知书，哈该书，撒迦利亚书，玛拉基书都写于这一时期。
- 这段时间延续了大约一百年。(旧约中最后一些事件发生在公元前420年前后)。

九、两约之间：

犹太历史书，通常参照伪经。这些史书描述两约之间四百多年的历史。它们表明犹太人再也没有重新回到崇拜偶像和其它神明的旧辙。它们继续保持着从政治和精神上得到拯救的愿望。

V. I & II SAMUEL: AFTER ESTABLISHING A "POPULAR" KING, GOD CHOOSES A KING OVER ISRAEL WHO IS DEVOTED TO GOD AND MAKES A COVENANT WITH HIM

- In response to the people's pleading for a king, God authorizes the prophet Samuel to anoint (appoint) Saul as Israel's first king.
- Although a strong and imposing looking leader, Saul soon seeks his own way more than God's; so God instructs Samuel to anoint the shepherd boy David as the new king.
- David does not take over as king until years later at Saul's death, but once he does he establishes Jerusalem as the capitol, he unifies the nation, and he leads Israel to finally take possession of all of the promised land.
- David's character and behaviors are inconsistent throughout his life, but he is devoted to God and God makes a covenant promising David a descendant who will have a throne and a kingdom that lasts forever.
- Much of the poetic book of Psalms (a collection of lyrics) comes from David during this time.
- Time span of I & II Samuel: over 100 years. (David starts ruling shortly before 1000 BC.)

VI. I & II KINGS: AFTER SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS CONTINUALLY DISOBEY HIM, GOD PUNISHES AND EVENTUALLY SCATTERS ISRAEL

- Solomon succeeds his father David, builds a temple in Jerusalem and leads Israel with wisdom-- but he marries many foreign women and eventually starts worshiping other gods.
- Upon his death, Israel splits into two kingdoms:

The Southern Kingdom, "Judah", contains Jerusalem and the temple and consists of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin. It is continually ruled by a descendant of David.

The Northern Kingdom, "Israel", consists of the remaining ten tribes. There are many bloody coups resulting in numerous dynasties over this kingdom.

- The Northern Kingdom ignores the prophetic warnings of Elijah, Elisha and others and finally ends up being taken captive by the Assyrians, a captivity from which these tribes never return.
- Judah has brief periods of turning back to God, but it keeps relapsing and about 100 years after the Northern Kingdom falls, Jerusalem is conquered and the Judeans are taken captive by Babylonians and moved to Babylon.
- The prophet Jeremiah predicts that Judah's captivity will be temporary for God will return a faithful remnant to the promised land (and he gives a prophecy that a new and better covenant is coming).
- The poetic books Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs (Solomon) are set during Solomon's reign; and all but six of the Old Testament prophetic books concern prophets who lived and ministered during the several hundred years after Solomon's reign until Judah's subsequent captivity in Babylon.
- Time span of I & II Kings: hundreds of years. (Jerusalem is devastated by the Babylonians around 600 BC.)

VII. I & II CHRONICLES: A RETELLING OF THE EVENTS OF II SAMUEL AND I & II KINGS

VIII. EZRA, NEHEMIAH, AND ESTHER: GOD RETURNS A REMNANT OF FAITHFUL JUDEANS TO THE PROMISED LAND

- Time lapse: Ezra takes up 70 years after the fall of Jerusalem, a time period predicted by Jeremiah. (The prophetic books Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel take place during the captivity in Babylon.)
- Babylon is conquered by Persia, and its king, Cyrus, allows the Judeans (i.e., Jews) to start to return to Judah.
- During a hundred year period, Jews return mainly in three groups, led successively by Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah.
- Ezra describes how the Jerusalem temple was rebuilt, Nehemiah describes the rebuilding of the protective walls around Jerusalem, and Esther describes how Esther became a queen of Persia and used her influence to save her fellow Jews.
- The Jews who return to the land show a significant concern with being obedient to God.
- The last three prophetic books, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi, are set during this time period.
- Time span: ~100 years. (The last events in the Old Testament occur around 420 BC.)

IX. PERIOD BETWEEN THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS:

Jewish historical books, usually referred to as the Apocrypha, describe some events during the 400+ year gap between the end of the Old Testament and the start of the New. They relate that the Jews never again returned to the worship of idols and other gods, yet they continued to remain in need of deliverance, both politically and spiritually.

圣经纲要阅读计划

许多人都想阅读并懂得圣经。但是，通常都会发生这样的事情，一个人从第一页开始读起，当读到第三或者第四卷书的时候，就放弃了--感到迷失、混乱或者迷惑。问题在于，圣经由66卷不同文学样式的书集合而成；每一部分的重要性只有通过认真的研究才能看出。此外，如同一本教科书，每一部分都包含着重要的信息，但是读起来并不一定会感兴趣。令人鼓舞的是，圣经的许多部分可读性很强。

这个计划是针对以下部分的学习指南(根据作者的理解和观念):

- 重要的 --比较易懂的(当按照顺序读的时候)
- 感兴趣的阅读 --纵览圣经全貌

怎样安排阅读资料?

旧约和新约的阅读是按照年代顺序和主要事件的分组安排的。对于那些特别长的部分(例如旧约中律法),只包括了一些典型的部分。尽管旧约中所发生的事件是在新约之前数百年写下来的,旧约和新约的阅读是交错进行的,为的是让你尽快进入新约部分,并帮助你比较和对比两约。

单独部分的长度大都在四个章节左右,通常都表现一个主题。弄懂这些部分,经常依赖于以前的部分。因此,我主张你们按照顺序阅读。

需要多少时间完成阅读?

取决于你的阅读速度和注意力的集中程度。每一个独立的部分大约需要15到30分钟。这个计划包括大约60个部分。譬如说,如果你每天读一个新的部分,你大约需要两个月完成阅读;如果你每周读一个新的部分,你大约需要一年多一点时间完成。

我怎样从阅读中得到最大效益?

为了帮助阅读的顺利进行,经常参照圣经年代表"圣经历史简明提纲",或者其它圣经简明纲要。

尽管如此,圣经并不以仅是历史事件的记录。圣经声称要把上帝的知识给予我们,要我们懂得如何把上帝和经历丰盛的生命联系起来。圣经还声称要把异像给予人类,给予读者自己的动机和灵魂。对于每个部分,都要问自己以下三个问题:

- 1) 这一部分是如何讲述上帝(和基督)的? (他的特征,关注重点以及他的意图是什么)
- 2) 这一部分是如何讲述民众的? (我们的特征,关注重点以及我们的意图是什么)
- 3) 这一部分是如何讲述我的生命的? (我的生命的特征,关注重点以及我的意图是什么)

最后,当你读到不懂的部分,或者不知所以然,应该请教你认识的对圣经很懂的人。记下心得和问题也是很有帮助的办法。要想进入更深的层次,最好参加查经班(如果你还没有参加的话)

A Key Selections Bible Reading Plan: A Guided Tour of Major Parts of the Bible

Old Testament: From Creation to Corruption to God's Promises to Abraham

- ❑ Genesis 1-4. Creation and rebellion
- ❑ Genesis 6-9. Destruction by flood
- ❑ Genesis 11:1-9; 11:27-13:18; 15. Ethnic groups origins and covenant with Abra(ha)m
- ❑ Genesis 16:1-18:15; 21:1-7; 22. Abraham and tests of his faith

New Testament: Jesus' Earthly Life As Told by Matthew

- ❑ Matthew 1-4. Beginnings in Jesus' earthly life
- ❑ Matthew 5-7. The sermon on the mount
- ❑ Matthew 8-11. Miracles and disciples
- ❑ Matthew 12-15. Parables and other teachings
- ❑ Matthew 16-19. More teachings and events
- ❑ Matthew 20-23. Teachings and actions in Jerusalem
- ❑ Matthew 26-28. Suffering, death and resurrection

Old Testament: The Generation of Israel that Departed Egypt

- ❑ Genesis 25:19-26; 35:9-12; Exodus 1-4. Moses and the descendants of Abraham in Egypt
- ❑ Exodus 5:1-6:13; 7-8. Moses, Pharaoh and plagues
- ❑ Exodus 11:1-12:40; 14; 15:22-27; Psalm 105. Passover and departure from Egypt
- ❑ Exodus 19-21; 22:16-23:9; Leviticus 4:27-35. Ten Commandments and other covenant laws
- ❑ Leviticus 26; Psalm 1; 19:7-14; 119:1-32. Results of disregarding vs. treasuring God's laws
- ❑ Numbers 10:11-16; 10:33-11:35; 13-14. Grumbling, rebelling and consequences

New Testament: Jesus' Earthly Life as Told by John

- ❑ John 1-3. Beginnings
- ❑ John 4-6. Interactions with others
- ❑ John 7-10. Controversy about Jesus' identity
- ❑ John 11:1-14:14. Lazarus, reactions, and final meeting with disciples
- ❑ John 14:15-17:26. Final words
- ❑ John 18-21. Arrest, crucifixion, and appearances

Old Testament: The Next Generation of Israel and the Following Generations without Kings

- ❑ Deuteronomy 1: 4:32-40; 5-7; 10:12-22. Moses' words to the next generation
- ❑ Joshua 1; 3; 5:1-6:21; 7. Joshua leads obedient Israelites into the promised land
- ❑ Joshua 23:1-24:31; Judges 2:6-23; Psalm 106. The Israelites return to disobedience

New Testament: Beginning Years of Christianity

- ❑ Acts 1:1-5:16. The church's beginnings in Jerusalem
- ❑ Acts 5:17-8:40. Persecution and the start of Christianity's spreading
- ❑ James 1-5. Practical encouragement to early Christians
- ❑ I Peter 1-5. Exhortations to holy living
- ❑ I John 1-5. Instructions on living in fellowship with God

Old Testament: The First Three Kings of Israel

- ❑ I Samuel 1; 3; 7:15-8:22; 10:17-11:15. Samuel and Israel's first king--Saul
- ❑ I Samuel 13:1-14; 15:16-23; 16:1-13; 17:1-18:9; 31. David and Saul
- ❑ Psalm 8; 14:1-3; 16; 23; 25; 139. Poetic writings of David
- ❑ II Samuel 5:1-5; 7; 11:1-17; 11:26-12:15; Psalm 51; 53:1-3. King David's covenant, and sin

圣经历史纵览

圣经由66卷书汇编而成。圣经分为旧约(英文缩写为 O.T) 新约(英文缩写为 N.T) 两部分。旧约写于公元前数百年; 新约是关于基督和他的早期门徒的。两约都包括三个主要部分:

旧约历史书: 从创世记到以斯帖记

旧约诗体书: 从约伯记到所罗门的雅歌

旧约先知书: 从以赛亚书到玛拉基书

新约历史书: 从马太福音到使徒行传

新约使徒书(信): 从罗马书到犹大书

新约先知书: 启示录

通过概览圣经的历史书, 我们可以对圣经历史的全貌列出以下这样一个简明提纲。这个提纲可以帮助你阅读圣经时通过上下文的联系而得到更好的理解。(“约”和“契约”是一回事 - 都是讲一种许诺和应许的协议。)

一、创世记: 在上帝所创造的、然而反叛了的世界, 神确立赐福的契约

- 创世记中的主要事件: 世界的创造, 人类的堕落和犯罪, 世界范围内的大洪水, 民族/种族的形成, 上帝和亚伯拉罕的立约。
- 上帝和亚伯拉罕以及他的子孙立约, 侧重于保证使他的名为大, 迦南(今以色列)为应许之地, 子孙繁多, 和神的特殊关系, 赐福给全地人民。
- 亚伯拉罕之后, 最重要的人物是以撒, 然后是雅各(后改名以色列), 以及以色列的十二个儿子, 特别是约瑟。
- 创世记以以色列的十二个儿子在埃及的特权地位作为结束。
- 诗体作品约伯记的故事大约发生在创世记这个时期。
- 这一时期包括数千年, 从远古时代到公元前1800年(亚伯拉罕诞生于公元前2000年)。

二、出埃及记、利未记、民数记和申命记: 和亚伯拉罕的子孙们一起, 上帝开始为自己建立一个国家

- 自从创世记结束以后, 时间又过了数百年。
- 出埃及记以以色列的十二个儿子的数千名后裔在埃及为奴的生活作为开端。
- 摩西领导以色列人出埃及, 上帝和他们立约, 作为一个民众群体, 要求他们服从上帝颁发的综合律法(通常称为“旧约”)。
- 但是, 以色列民反叛, 出埃及的那一辈人, 除了两个例外, 都没有被准许进入上帝所应许给亚伯拉罕子孙的土地。
- 申命记以以色列的下一代准备进入迦南应许之地、清除当时居民(他们因为积重难返的软弱而遭到上帝的审判)为结束。
- 这段时间包括120年, 是摩西在世的时间。(出埃及的时间大约在公元前1450年左右)。

三、约书亚记: 上帝新生的国家开始占据应许之地

- 约书亚继承摩西并领导新的一代进入迦南地。
- 以色列人征服了迦南地的所有主要城市, 十二个部族(从以色列的十二个儿子的子孙所形成)都分得一部分, 共同生活在那里。
- 这段时间包括20到30年。(征服迦南地的主要战斗花费了不到七年时间)。

四、士师记和路得记: 上帝之国不久便陷入长期的背约和麻烦之中

- 约书亚死后, 以色列人开始崇拜其它神, 从道德到精神都走向崩溃。
- 以色列民族没能彻底占领应许之地, 并且不断面临异国和相邻部族的侵扰。
- 当以色列人最终呼求上帝把他们从侵扰中拯救出来的时候, 一些士师成为领袖, 他们把以色列人从敌对国家和部族的威胁中解脱出来。
- 士师们的个人生活往往反映出以色列人的精神状态, 他们的行动经常表现为自私而且愚蠢。
- 士师时期总起来说是黑暗的。路得记就是这个时期一个信仰纯正妇女的见证。
- 士师时期持续了300多年。

A Brief Survey of Biblical History

The Bible is a collection of 66 books. It is divided into the Old Testament (OT), written hundreds of years before Christ, and the New Testament (NT), written about Christ and his first followers. Each testament has three main sections:

OT Historical Books: [Genesis](#) to [Esther](#)
OT Poetic Books: [Job](#) to [Song of Songs \(Solomon\)](#)
OT Prophetic Books: [Isaiah](#) to [Malachi](#)

NT Historical Books: [Matthew](#) to [Acts](#)
NT Epistles (Letters): [Romans](#) to [Jude](#)
NT Prophetic Book: [Revelation](#)

This is a brief overview of Biblical history by surveying its [historical books](#). This should help one read the Bible with a sense of context and understand it better. ("Testament" means the same thing as covenant--an agreement of commitment and promises.)

I. GENESIS: IN HIS CREATED, REBELLIOUS WORLD, GOD ESTABLISHES A COVENANT OF BLESSINGS

- Major events of the book: creation of the world, humanity's fall into sin, a worldwide flood, forming of nations / ethnic groups, and God's covenant with Abraham.
- God's covenant is with Abraham and descendants of his, and concerns promises of greatness, the land of Canaan (current "Israel"), many descendants, a special relationship with God, and blessing coming to all peoples of earth.
- After Abraham, most importantly comes Isaac, then Jacob (renamed Israel), and then Israel's twelve sons, particularly Joseph.
- The book ends with all twelve sons of Israel in Egypt in positions of privilege.
- The poetic book [Job](#) is probably set during the time period of [Genesis](#).
- Time period covered: thousands of years, ancient days to ~1800 BC. (Abraham is born ~ 2000 BC.)

II. EXODUS, LEVITICUS, NUMBERS, & DEUTERONOMY: WITH ABRAHAM'S DESCENDANTS, GOD STARTS TO FORM A NATION FOR HIMSELF

- Time lapse since the end of [Genesis](#): hundreds of years.
- [Exodus](#) opens with thousands of descendants from the twelve sons of Israel in Egypt in slavery.
- Moses leads these Israelites out of Egypt and God makes a covenant with them as a people group which requires them to obey comprehensive laws that God gives them. (This is what is usually called "the Old Covenant".)
- But the people rebel and none of the original generation that came out of Egypt (with two exceptions) are permitted to enter into the land God promised to give to descendants of Abraham.
- [Deuteronomy](#) ends with the next generation of Israelites preparing to enter the promised land of Canaan and to remove the current inhabitants (who are judged by God because of their long-lasting wickedness).
- Time span covered: ~120 years, Moses' life span. (Their departing Egypt was probably around 1450 BC.)

III. JOSHUA: GOD'S NEWBORN NATION STARTS TO VICTORIOUSLY POSSESS ITS PROMISED LAND

- Joshua succeeds Moses and leads the new generation into the land of Canaan.
- The Israelites conquer all the main cities of the land and each of their twelve tribes (who descended from Israel's twelve sons) is apportioned an area to live within.
- Time span covered: 20 to 30 years. (The main conquest of the land takes under 7 years.)

IV. JUDGES AND RUTH: GOD'S NATION SOON LAPSES INTO LONG LASTING DISOBEDIENCE AND TROUBLES

- After Joshua dies, the Israelites start worshiping other gods and become morally and spiritually corrupt.
- The nation of Israel fails to take complete possession of its promised land and faces repeated oppression by neighboring tribes / nations.
- The judges were leaders who delivered the people of Israel from the threat of an enemy nation / tribe when the Israelites finally called out to God for deliverance from oppression.
- The judges' personal lives usually reflect Israel's spiritual condition, and they often act selfishly and foolishly.
- The book of [Ruth](#) is an account of a trusting woman during this generally dark period of the judges.
- Time span of [Judges](#): over 300 years.

- I Kings 1:1-14; 1:28-53; 2:10-12; 3; 4:29-34, Proverbs 1; 2. King Solomon and wisdom
- Proverbs 3-6. Wisdom of Solomon
- Proverbs 11; 12; 28; 29. More wisdom of Solomon
- I Kings 5:1-6; 6:37-38; 8:1-30; 8:41-43; 8:54-9:9; 10:23-11:13. The temple and Solomon's sin
- Ecclesiastes 1-3; 12. Wisdom from an aged, regretful Solomon

New Testament: Paul and His Explanations of Christianity

- Acts 9-11. Saul's conversion and Christianity's spread to non-Jews
- Acts 13:1-15:35. Saul (Paul) travels to distant cities and the Jerusalem council
- Galatians 1:1-2:10; 3:1-4:7; 5:1-6:10. Paul stresses righteousness comes through faith not law
- Romans 1:1-3:20. All earn God's judgment
- Romans 3:21-5:21. Acceptance by God through faith in Christ
- Romans 6-8. Living free from sin's control
- Romans 12:1-15:13. Living to please God

Old Testament: The Northern and Southern Kingdoms, their Ends, Exile, and Return

- I Kings 11:26-12:33; 14:21-15:34; Isaiah 1. Corruption in the divided kingdoms
- Isaiah 40:6-31; 66:1-4; Jeremiah 1; 2; 4:1-4; 5. Selections from the prophets
- II Kings 17:1-23; 18:1-8; 23:36-24:16; 25:8-12; Lamentations 1. The kingdoms conquered
- Daniel 1-3; 6. Daniel and friends in exile in Babylon
- Jeremiah 29:1-14; Ezra 1; 7:11-28; Nehemiah 1:1-2:8; 6:15-16; 9. The exiles who return to Judah

New Testament: Paul and Lessons Learned Through Difficulties

- Acts 15:36-16:34; 17:16-18:11; 20:17-38; 21:27-36; 25:1-12; 28:16; 28:30-31; II Corinthians 11:24-29. Paul's activities and hardships across the Roman empire
- Philippians 1-4. Joyful living in all circumstances
- Colossians 1-4. Christ's supremacy
- I Corinthians 1; 3; 13; 15. Correcting mistakes a church has made
- II Timothy 1-4. Instructions to a leader Paul taught

Old and New Testaments: Prophecies about Christ

- Isaiah 9:1-7; 11:1-5; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Daniel 7:13-14; 9:20-27; Micah 5:2-4; Malachi 3:1-2. Prophecies about Messiah's (Christ's) coming and a new covenant
- Psalm 22:1-24; Matthew 27:27-46; Isaiah 52:13-53:12; Luke 24:33-49; Acts 2:22-39. Christ's death, and its meaning
- Matthew 24; 25:31-46; Acts 1:6-11; I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11; Revelation 21:1-8; 21:22-22:21. Christ's return to earth to judge and rule, and the results

What do I do after I finish the readings?

After you finish this overview, you can go back into parts of the Bible you skipped over. A book that can help you in understanding and reading each of the different Biblical books is, [Talk Through the Bible](#) by Bruce Wilkinson and Kenneth Boa. Also recommended for knowing the Bible better is, [30 Days to Understanding the Bible in 15 Minutes a Day](#) by Dr. Max Anders. You also can go back and reread sections in this reading plan. You will most certainly see things you did not see on your first reading.

圣经纲要阅读计划--圣经主要部分学习指南

旧约：从创世到人的堕落、到上帝对亚伯拉罕的应许

- 创世记 1-4, 创造和反叛
- 创世记 6-9, 被洪水毁灭
- 创世记 11:1-9; 11:27-13:18; 15, 种族/民族的起源和上帝与亚伯兰(后来上帝为他改名叫亚伯拉罕)的盟约
- 创世记 16:1-18:15; 21:1-7; 22, 亚伯拉罕和信心的试探

新约：马太福音所讲述的耶稣在人间的生活经历

- 马太福音 1-4, 耶稣人间生活的开始
- 马太福音 5-7, 山上宝训
- 马太福音 8-11, 神迹和门徒
- 马太福音 12-15, 寓言和其它教训
- 马太福音 16-19, 更多的教诲和事件
- 马太福音 20-23, 在耶路撒冷的训示和活动
- 马太福音 26-28, 受难、死亡和复活

旧约：以色列出埃及的一代

- 创世记 25:19-26; 35:9-12; 出埃及记 1-4, 摩西和亚伯拉罕的后裔在埃及
- 出埃及记 5:1-6:13; 7-8, 摩西、法老和灾祸
- 出埃及记 11:1-12:40; 14; 15:22-27; 诗篇 105, 逾越节和出埃及
- 出埃及记 19-21; 22:16-23:9; 利未记 4:27-35, 十诫和其它约定律法
- 利未记 26; 诗篇 1; 19:7-14; 119:1-32, 忽视与恪守上帝律法的不同结果
- 民数记 10:11-16; 10:33-11:35; 13-14, 抱怨、反叛和后果

新约：约翰福音所讲述的耶稣在人间的生活经历

- 约翰福音 1-3, 开端
- 约翰福音 4-6, 与他人的接触
- 约翰福音 7-10, 对耶稣身份的不同看法
- 约翰福音 11:1-14:4, 拉撒路, 反映和与门徒的最后聚集
- 约翰福音 14:15-17:26, 最后的嘱托
- 约翰福音 18-21, 被捕、被钉十字架和显现

旧约：以色列的下一代和群盲无首的时代

- 申命记 1: 4:32-40; 5-7; 10:12-22, 摩西对下一代的重托
- 约书亚记 1; 3; 5:1-6:21; 7, 约书亚带领以色列民到达所应许之地
- 约书亚记 23:1-24:31; 士师记 2:6-23; 诗篇 106, 以色列人重新反叛

新约：基督教时代的开始

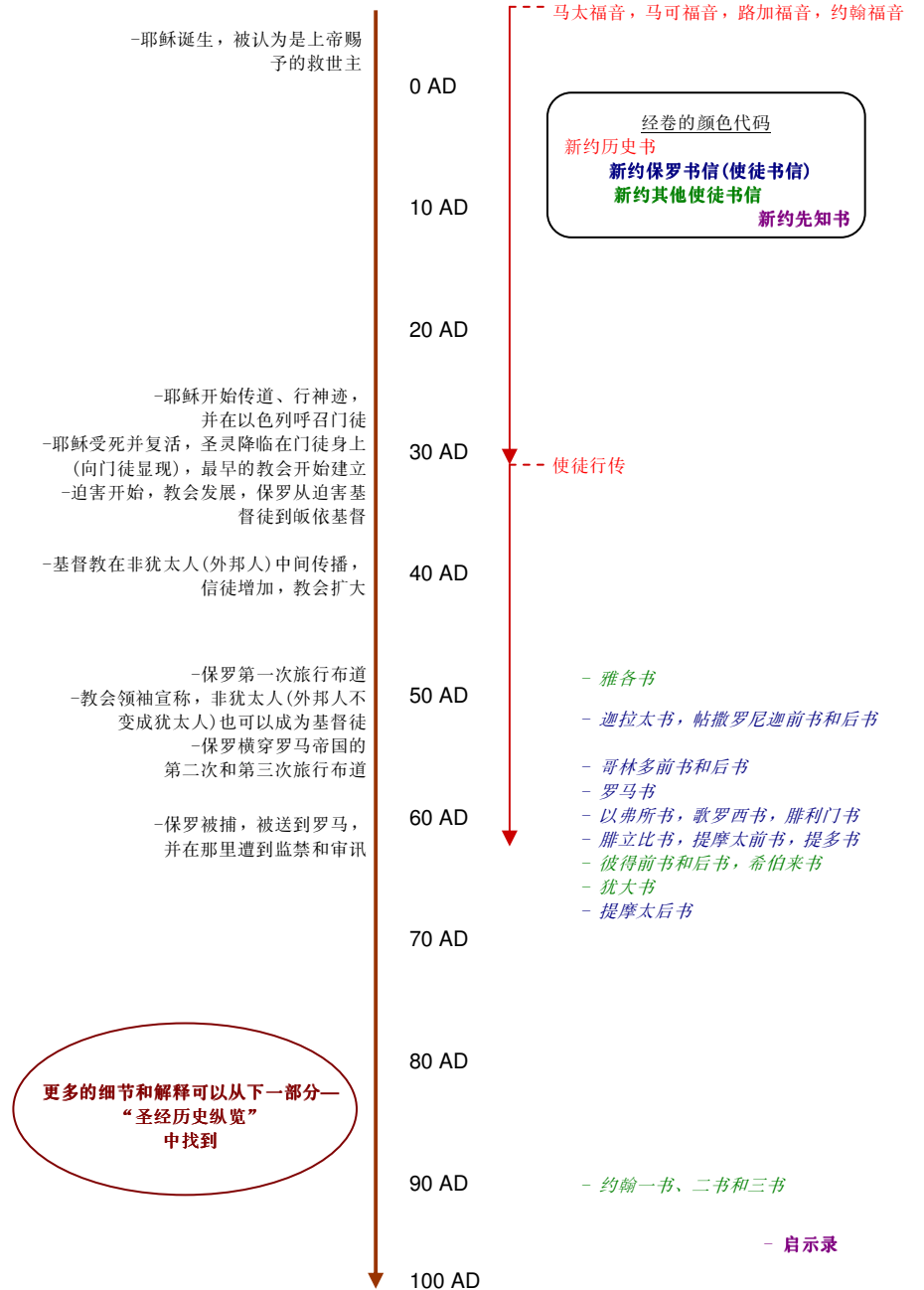
- 使徒行传 1:1-5:16, 耶路撒冷教会的开始
- 使徒行传 5:17-8:40, 迫害和基督教的传播
- 雅各书 1-5, 对早期基督徒的实践性鼓励
- 彼得前书 1-5, 对於过圣洁生活的劝戒
- 约翰一书 1-5, 对於过与神沟通的生活的指导

旧约：以色列的头三个君王

- 撒母耳记上 1; 3; 7:15-8:22; 10:17-11:15, 撒母耳和以色列的第一个君王 -- 扫罗
- 撒母耳记上 13:1-14; 15:16-23; 16:1-13; 17:1-18:9; 31, 大卫和扫罗
- 诗篇 14:1-3; 16; 23; 25; 139, 大卫的诗歌体写作
- 撒母耳记下 5:1-5; 7; 11:1-17; 11:26-12:15; 诗篇 51; 53:1-3, 大卫王的立约和罪过

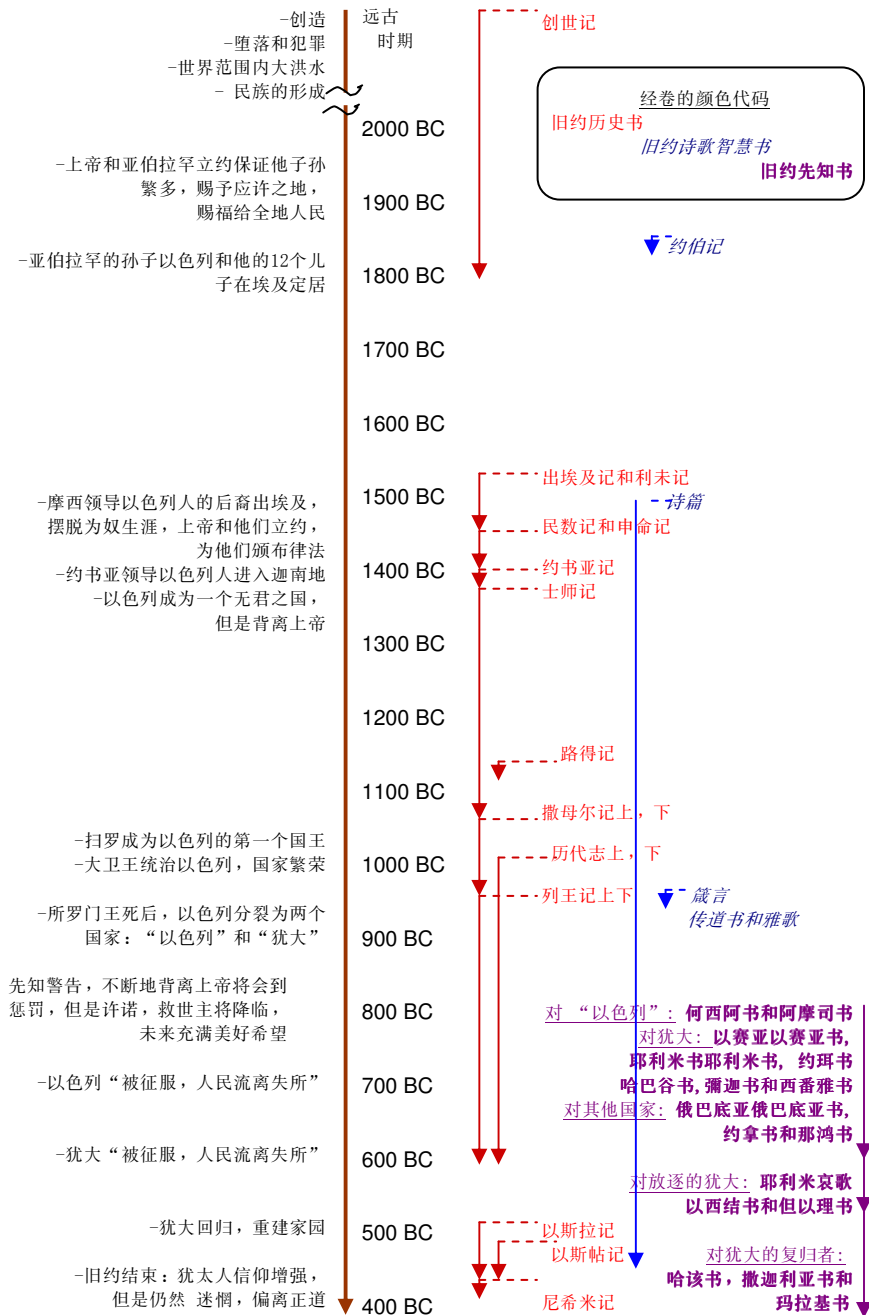
新约年代表

(事件和经卷均根据时间顺序安排。很多时间只是大约估计。)



旧约年代表

(事件和经卷均根据时间顺序安排。很多时间只是大约估计。)



- 列王记上 1:1-14; 1:28-53; 2:10-12; 3; 4:29-34; 箴言 1; 2, 所罗门王和智慧篇
- 箴言 3-6, 所罗门的智慧篇
- 箴言 11; 12; 28; 29, 所罗门更多的智慧表达
- 列王记上 5:1-6; 6:37-38; 8:1-30; 8:41-43; 8:54-9:9; 10:23-11:13, 圣殿和所罗门的罪过
- 传道书 1-3; 12, 年老悔恨的所罗门的智慧

新约：保罗和他对基督教的阐释

- 使徒行传 9-11, 扫罗的皈依和基督教在非犹太人中的传播
- 使徒行传 13:1-15:35, 扫罗(保罗)到远方城市的旅行和耶路撒冷大会
- 加拉太书 1:1-2:10; 3:1-4:7; 5:1-6:10, 保罗强调要因信称义, 而不是因律法称义
- 罗马书 1:1-3:20, 世人都要受审判
- 罗马书 3:21-5:21, 通过在基督里的信仰而被神所接受
- 罗马书 6-8, 过摆脱罪的束缚的生活
- 罗马书 12:1-15:13, 过为上帝所喜悦的生活

旧约：北方和南方列国、灭亡、流放和回归

- 列王记上 11:26-12:33; 14:21-15:34; 以赛亚书 1, 分裂中诸国的腐败
- 以赛亚书 40:6-31; 66:1-4; 耶利米书 1; 2; 4:1-4; 5, 选择先知
- 列王记下 17:1-23; 18:1-8; 23:36-24:16; 25:8-12; 耶利米哀歌 1, 征服列国
- 耶利米书 29:1-14; 以斯拉记 1; 7:11-28; 尼希米记 1:1-2:8; 6:15-16; 9, 流亡者重归犹太地

新约：保罗和患难中学到的功课

- 使徒行传 15:36-16:34; 17:16-18:11; 20:17-38; 21:27-36; 25:1-12; 28:16; 28:30-31; 哥林多后书 11:24-29, 保罗在罗马帝国的活动和艰难处境
- 腓立比书 1-4, 在任何情况下生活都充满喜乐
- 哥罗西书 1-4, 基督的超越
- 哥林多前书 1; 3; 13; 15, 改正教会的过犯
- 提摩太后书 1-4, 保罗对教会领袖的教导

新约旧约：关于基督的预言

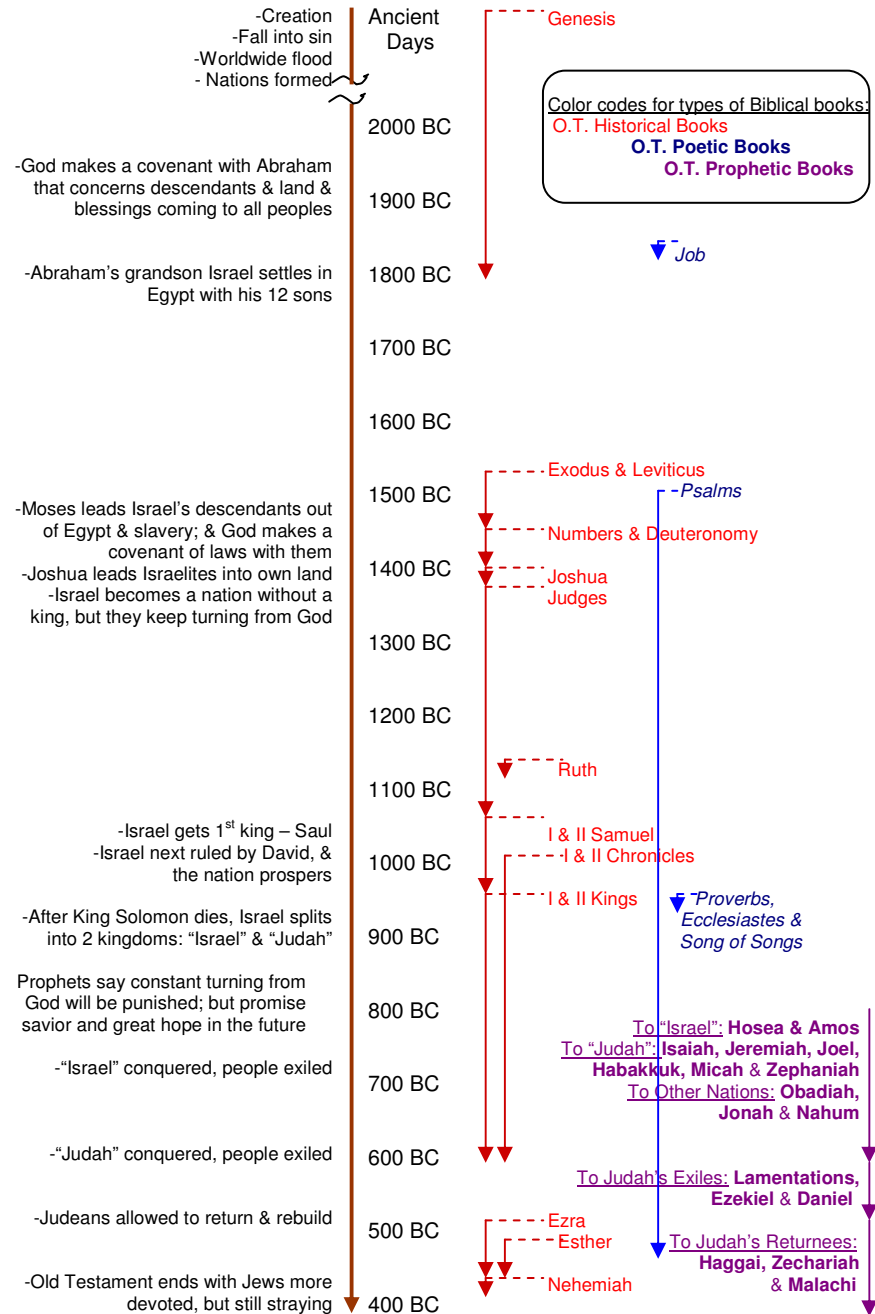
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- 诗篇 22:1-24; 马太福音 27:27-46; 以赛亚书 52:13-53:12; 路加福音 24:33-49; 使徒行传 2:22-39, 基督受难及其意义
- 马太福音 24; 25:31-46; 使徒行传 1:6-11; 1帖撒罗尼迦前书 4:13-5:11; 启示录 21:1-8; 21:22-22:21, 基督的再来和对世界的审判及统治, 以及结局

完成阅读后我应该怎么办?

当你读完这个提要后，你可以回到以往你跳过去的部分。阅读《圣经会话》一书会有助于你进一步了解圣经，《30天读懂圣经》这本书也是值得推荐的。你也可以回头重读这个指南中的部分。你将确定无疑的发现你第一次阅读时没有发现的东西。

A Timeline for the Old Testament

(Events & books are arranged by the time periods in which they are set. Many dates are very approximate.)



A Timeline for the New Testament

(Events & books are arranged by the time periods in which they are set. Many dates are very approximate.)

