



THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

THE ULTIMATE FIRST-TIMERS
GUIDE TO THE SCRIPTURES

KNOWING SCRIPTURE

When you read the Bible, you will soon know:

- ✓ Who it says God is,
- ✓ The accuracy of people who speak about the Scriptures,
- ✓ Keys to healing, brokenness, and victorious faith.



The Breath & Word Of God

What The Bible Claims About Itself



A Cozy Corner

Get Comfortable



God Of The Created World

Guide to The Old Testament



Redeeming The Broken

Guide to The New Testament

Bringing Scripture To Life

Getting The Most Out of What You Read

Forevermore

Bringing heaven to earth today, tomorrow, and forever



SECTION ONE:

THE BREATH & WORD OF GOD

What The Bible
Says About Itself

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT ITSELF

The Bible speaks from the context of an eternal existence with an eternal God. It uses things we know and understand to describe a God beyond our understanding.

THE BREATH OF GOD

“Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.” -Genesis 2:7

What all of humanity and Science can't do, God did. He breathed a life into the molecules of carbon, minerals, and water; he breathed life into the cells that make up your body.

With the same life he breathes into our lives when we read the Bible. When we say, “Scripture is God-breathed,” it's because it holds keys to life beyond our understanding, and that reading it does something alive in the heart of the reader that doesn't happen with any other book.



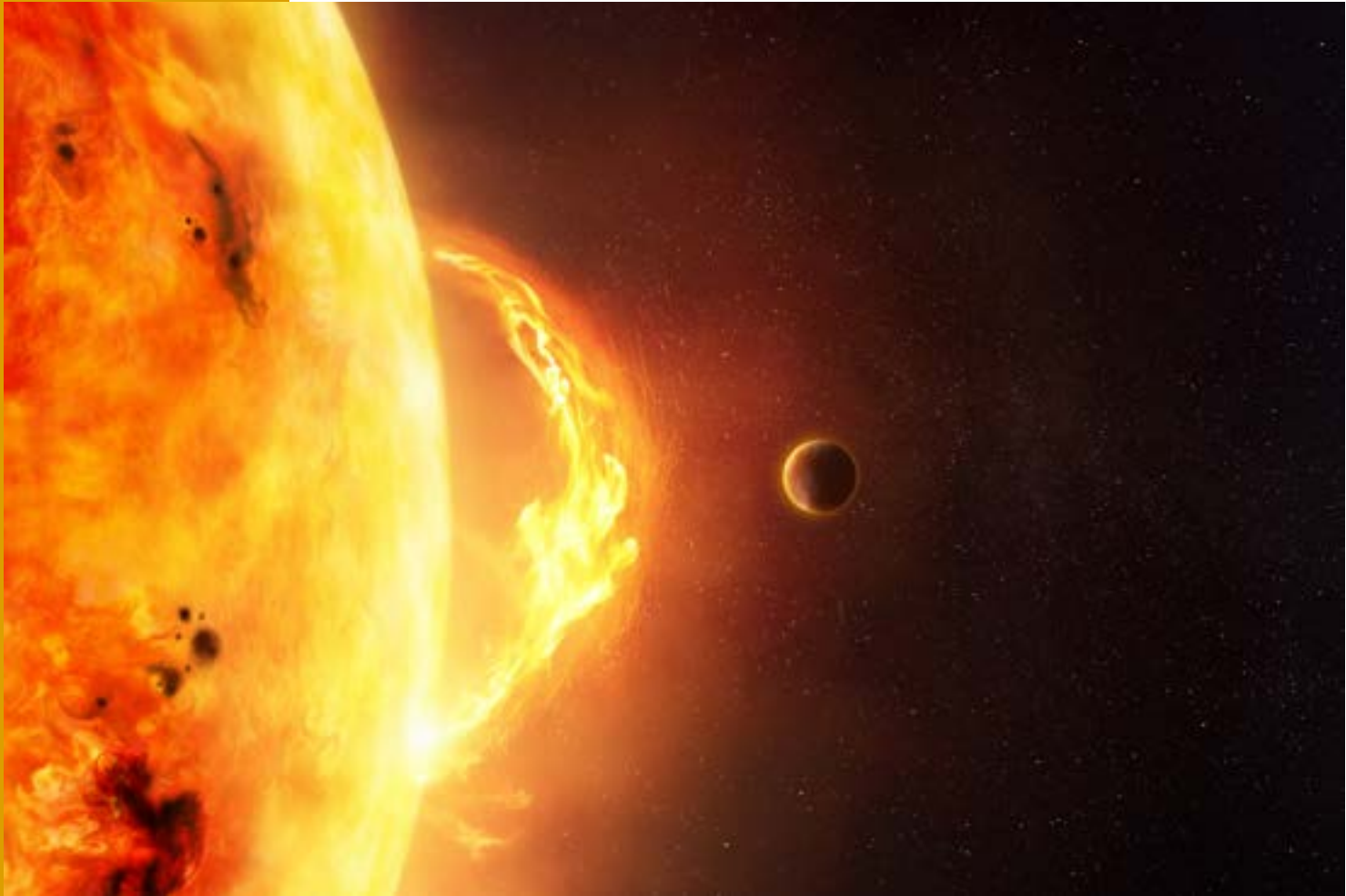
THE BREATH OF GOD



All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

2 TIMOTHY 3:16

AND GOD SAID...



And God said, "Let there be light,"
and there was light. God saw that the light was good...

GENESIS 1:3,4

THE WORD OF GOD

When God speaks, things happen.

What was the last thing you planned? How much discussion did it take? When God spoke, the world was created. And when he speaks to us, newness is created in our hearts.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

JOHN 1:1-5





THE WORD OF GOD

THE WRITTEN WORD OF GOD

The Bible is a compilation of Scriptures—of sacred writings. It's a record of what God has said and done since the beginning of time.

THE LIVING WORD OF GOD

"My soul thirsts for God, for the living God."

Throughout Scripture God spoke. How people responded altered history. God still lives, and we can listen for his voice.



66 BOOKS
40+ AUTHORS
1,000s OF YEARS
1 CORNER OF
THE WORLD.

The pages of Scripture were penned by over 40 authors. Archaeology places the first people in Africa. The Bible tells the story of God through the writings of many people— from a location of origins— one little corner of the world.



SECTION TWO:

A COZY CORNER

It's time to get
comfortable.



FIND YOUR SPOT.

Choose a place and time that you can commit to daily. Start with just 10 or 15 minutes. That's enough to read one chapter a day.

You can pose a simple question to God: "Who are you, and what do you have for me here today?"

CHOOSE YOUR BOOK.

There are a few ways to read:

- 1) [A printed book](#)
- 2) [Read online](#) or [on your phone](#)
- 3) Listen to an audio version



TAKE AN INVENTORY OF BELIEF.

As you read consider, what have you read? What do you understand? What doesn't sit right? Honesty of belief is critical to your integrity. Set your belief on what you know to be true, and be honest about what you don't know.



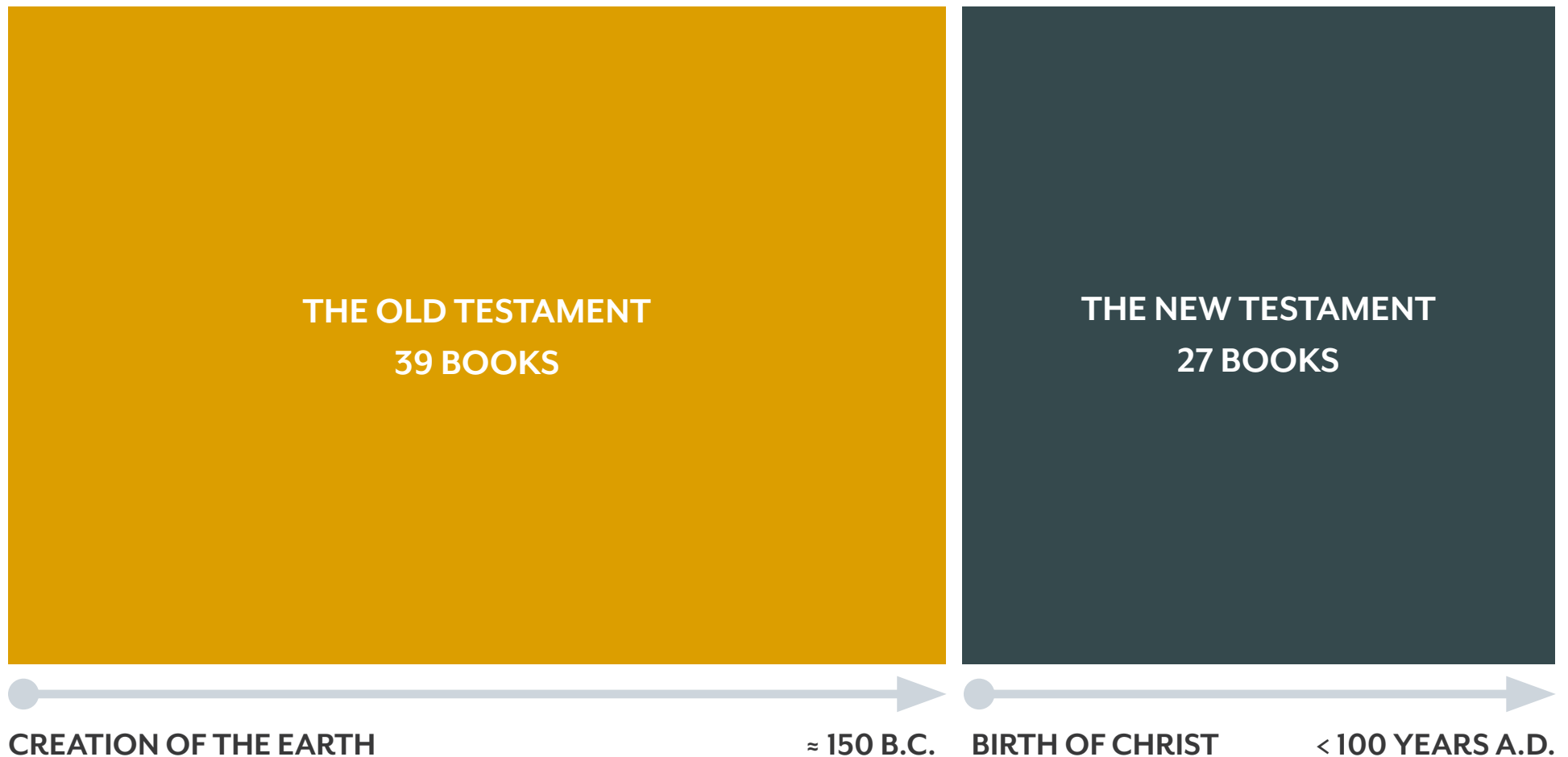
SECTION THREE:

GOD OF THE CREATED WORLD

Guide to the Old Testament

THE BEGINNING TO THE END

The Bible has two “Parts”—the Old and New Testament. Each part has a number of “Books.” The Old Testament opens with creation and has 39 books. God’s promise of salvation is revealed throughout the Old Testament which ends around 150 B.C.. The New Testament has 27 books, and opens with the birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The books were all written by 100 A.D., the final book describes the last days of the earth as eternity is ushered in.



THE TABLE OF CONTENTS

Below are all the books of the Old Testament and New Testament, and whether you're reading digitally, listening to an audio version, or reading a physical book, you will always find the same set of books.

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis	2 Chronicles	Daniel
Exodus	Ezra	Hosea
Leviticus	Nehemiah	Joel
Numbers	Esther	Amos
Deuteronomy	Job	Obadiah
Joshua	Psalms	Jonah
Judges	Proverbs	Micah
Ruth	Ecclesiastes	Nahum
1 Samuel	Song of Songs	Habakkuk
2 Samuel	Isaiah	Zephaniah
1 Kings	Jeremiah	Haggai
2 Kings	Lamentations	Zechariah
1 Chronicles	Ezekiel	Malachi

THE NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew	1 Timothy
Mark	2 Timothy
Luke	Titus
John	Philemon
Acts	Hebrews
Romans	James
1 Corinthians	1 Peter
2 Corinthians	2 Peter
Galatians	1 John
Ephesians	2 John
Phillippians	3 John
Colossians	Jude
1 Thessalonians	Revelation
2 Thessalonians	

In the beginning...



"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." - Genesis 1:1

GENESIS: THE FIRST BOOK OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

On the previous page, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth,” was followed with “Genesis 1:1.” All quotes from the Bible are noted like this. Each book

has a number of chapters: Genesis has 50 chapters. Each chapter is broken into verses. A verse is about one sentence long; sometimes longer or shorter. The verses are marked

with little numbers that you’ll see throughout the chapters. Our quote is from the first verse of the first chapter: **Genesis Chapter One: Verse One, Genesis 1:1.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT

→ Genesis	2 Chronicles	Daniel
Exodus	Ezra	Hosea
Leviticus	Nehemiah	Joel
Numbers	Esther	Amos
Deuteronomy	Job	Obadiah
Joshua	Psalms	Jonah
Judges	Proverbs	Micah
Ruth	Ecclesiastes	Nahum
1 Samuel	Song of Songs	Habakkuk
2 Samuel	Isaiah	Zephaniah
1 Kings	Jeremiah	Haggai
2 Kings	Lamentations	Zechariah
1 Chronicles	Ezekiel	Malachi

THE NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew	1 Timothy
Mark	2 Timothy
Luke	Titus
John	Philemon
Acts	Hebrews
Romans	James
1 Corinthians	1 Peter
2 Corinthians	2 Peter
Galatians	1 John
Ephesians	2 John
Phillippians	3 John
Colossians	Jude
1 Thessalonians	Revelation
2 Thessalonians	

THE FIRST FIVE BOOKS: THE BOOKS OF THE LAW

Humanity took its first step on earth, and in the first five books, people became nations. One family in particular has regard for God. The Bible follows this one family through the turbulence of becoming

a nation. The nation buckled under the oppression of slavery, and then in Exodus escaped in triumph. God coached and instructed his people out of a law slavery and into a law that would sustain them in a land

surrounded by tribal warfare and challenging terrain. When reading these books, notice the vast difference in society, technology, communication, and culture between then and now.

THE OLD TESTAMENT

THE NEW TESTAMENT

THE BOOKS OF THE LAW:

Humanity gets its start and civilization is established.

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

THE HISTORICAL BOOKS

The next twelve books read like an action novel. Nomadic tribes become nations. Kings rise and fall, battles are fought, and families struggle. God is faithful and attentive through it all. We see the patience of our

etherial parent, what makes him angry; what he patiently bears. Humanity, desperate to get what it wants, carves images to worship, bribing them—first with dances and ceremonies, and then with child sacrifice and

sexual offerings. God jealously pursues his people, setting himself apart from the fickle gods of human invention: Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.

THE OLD TESTAMENT

THE NEW TESTAMENT

THE BOOKS OF THE LAW:

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

HISTORICAL BOOKS:

God walks with humanity as nomadic tribes become nations

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

THE BOOKS OF THE HEART

In love and war, wealth and disaster— The “Books of the Heart” are written by kings and people as they pour out their passion on a page. What all of these books have in common is

the authentic cry of their hearts— seeking God and seeking wisdom. They reveal the raw honesty between themselves and God. These books are grouped on their subject matter,

not exactly their timeline. Job actually lands in time way back in Genesis. Many of the Psalms (songs of prayer and praise) were written by King David in the time of 2 Samuel.

THE OLD TESTAMENT

THE NEW TESTAMENT

THE BOOKS OF THE LAW:

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

HISTORICAL BOOKS:

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

Books of the Heart:

Poetic and philosophical books explore life, love, wisdom, and prayer from a perspective of faith.

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

THE MAJOR AND MINOR PROPHETS

God’s messengers speak—God speaks. His prophets listen and act. God’s prophets heard the truth and rose to the occasion to even say the hardest things

to people in power—sometimes risking their lives to speak against rulers. On a timeline, these books overlap the era recorded in the Historical Books, documenting

the prophets’ actions during that time. The terms “Major” and “Minor” for the prophets only refers to length of their books; not prominence or significance.

THE OLD TESTAMENT

THE NEW TESTAMENT

THE BOOKS OF THE LAW:

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy

HISTORICAL BOOKS:

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

BOOKS OF THE HEART:

Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon

MAJOR & MINOR PROPHETS:

Prophets were sent by God as messengers to people and kings during the time of the Historical books.

Major:
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel

Minor (in length of → books only):

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

SECTION FOUR:

REDEEMING THE BROKEN

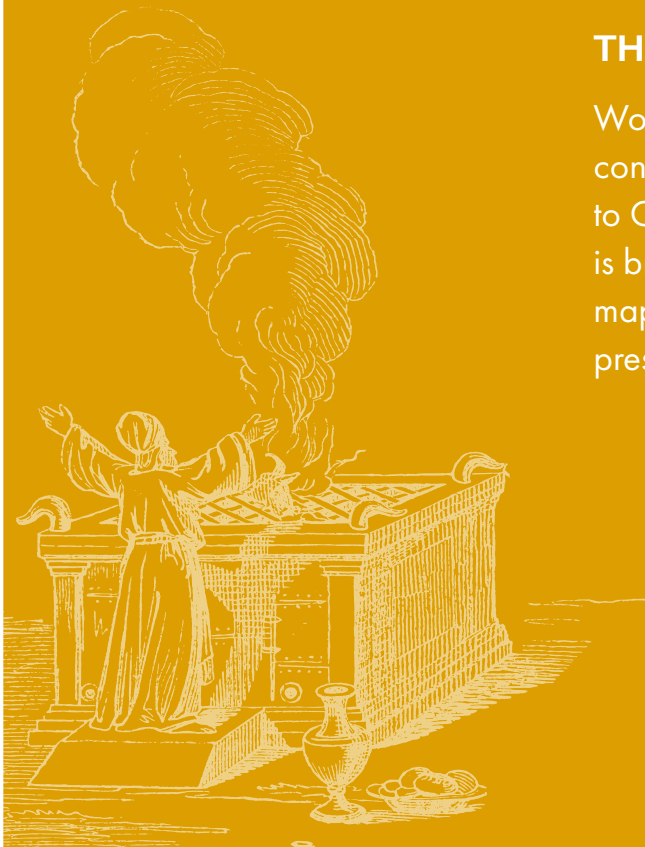
Guide to the New Testament



THE NEW TESTAMENT SPRINGS FROM THE OLD

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Woven throughout the pages of scripture are a continuing revelation of what it takes to be close to God and live in the fullness he intended. This is brought to life in God's temple—a physical map of a holy experience—the route into the presence of God.



THE NEW TESTAMENT

The presence of God came to earth as the Son of God was born to live among us; and the promise of the temple was fulfilled in his death and resurrection.



FOUR GOSPELS: FOUR TELLINGS

The gospels tell the story of Jesus no less than four times. This is a necessary exercise, as witnesses establish evidence. Each gospel was written by a different author—some eyewitness accounts and one was written as

documentation. Just like witnesses in any court case, each writer had his own personality, interests, and focus to his writing. Matthew was a friend of Jesus. Mark was a companion of one of Jesus' disciples—student/friends. Luke

was a doctor who endeavored to record what he had learned from people around. And John was an apostle who knew Jesus; and wrote his gospel with a more spiritual perspective than the others.

THE OLD TESTAMENT

THE OLD TESTAMENT

THE NEW TESTAMENT

Gospels

Four people tell the story of the life, death, and resurrection

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

THE EPISTLES: LETTERS OF THE APOSTLES

Scrambling to make sense of the life, death, and resurrection of Christ; the early church grew. For tens of years that followed, revelations of understanding unfolded. Apostles spoke and

wrote letters to one another as they pieced together what had just happened with the old teachings they'd always known. The Epistles of the New Testament compile events, speeches, and

letters written in response to the amazing life of Christ. In his death he was the final sacrificial lamb. And in his resurrection he conquered death, revealing himself as the Messiah.

THE NEW TESTAMENT

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Gospels

Four people tell the story of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

Epistles:

The newly formed church responds and grows as news of Jesus spreads.

Acts
Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude

THE REVELATION OF JOHN

The wild growth of the Christian movement alarmed Rome and Jewish leaders alike. Together they sought to squash this radical movement. Early Christians

faced persecution and death. John was exiled, and during his exile, Christ appeared to him. Christ's revelation to John was a great source of encouragement

and reassurance to many as it revealed the power of God in things to come.

THE OLD TESTAMENT

THE OLD TESTAMENT

THE NEW TESTAMENT

Gospels

Four people tell the story of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Matthew
Mark
Luke
John

Epistles:

The newly formed church responds and grows as news of Jesus spreads.

Acts
Romans
1 Corinthians
2 Corinthians
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians
1 Timothy
2 Timothy
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
1 Peter
2 Peter
1 John
2 John
3 John
Jude

Revelation of John: ↑

A resurrected Jesus brings comfort and instruction to a church facing intense adversity.



SECTION FIVE:

HEAVEN TO EARTH

Get the Most Out of The Bible



GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE BIBLE



Who does the passage involve?

What happens?

Where does it take place?

When is this placed in time, and how do technology, society, and political forces affect what happens?

Why do those involved respond the way they do?

How does this impact their lives?

Grounded In Knowledge

WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

Knowing the facts—what the Bible says—sets you apart. It equips you to form an educated belief, grounded in knowledge.



WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

An attribute is a quality or characteristic of someone or something.



Observe the character of God in the text to learn who God is.



Observe the character of the people in the text, and consider how they relate to God.

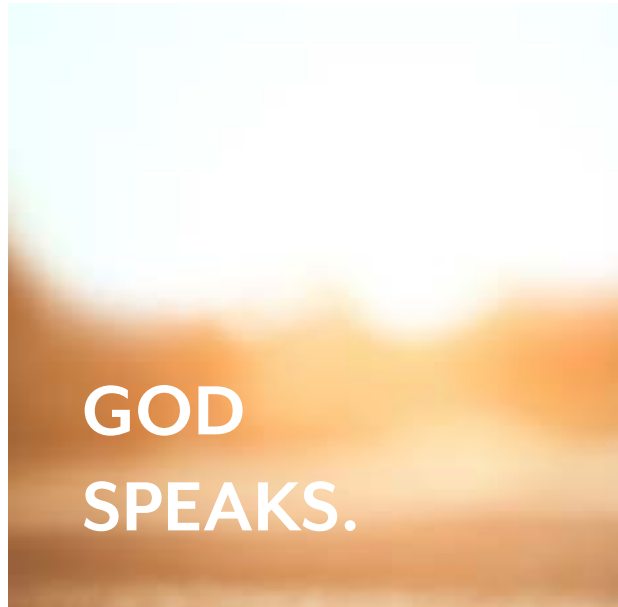
WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOU?

Take your inventory of belief, considering the impact of the character of God on your life. What does this mean to you today? If you pray about it, what sits most peacefully with you? How do you relate to the people involved in the passage? Does this change how you see God in relationship to what you're going through?

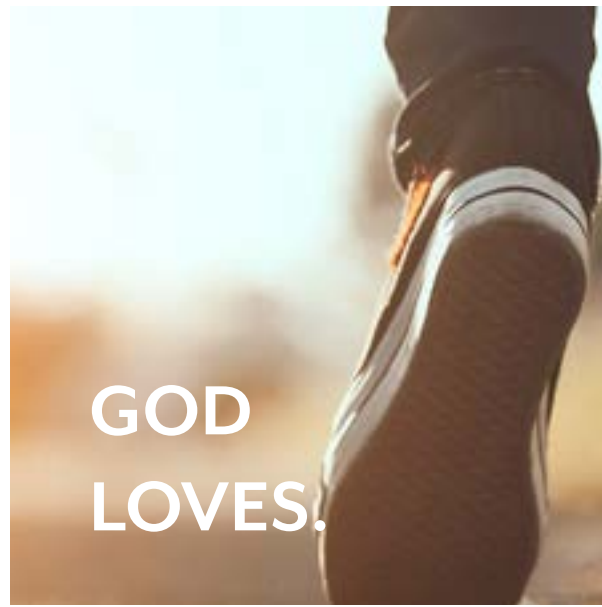
What is one thing you can adjust today in response to this passage? In belief or action?

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE BIBLE

THREE MAJOR THEMES



God speaks. How people respond shapes history. Consider each time you read, pray, or hear wisdom; how you will respond.



Viewed from an eternal perspective, see how God's love differs from our understanding of the word.



Since the beginning, God has offered a clear solution to the brokenness of this life. The Bible teaches about the Creator of all the earth who has continually offered acceptance freely.



SECTION SIX:

FOREVERMORE

Bringing heaven to earth
today, tomorrow, and forever

“YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN. ”

Heaven is not far off and in the future. Heaven is a choice we can make now and forever. As you read the words of Scripture consider, would it look like for God to bring heaven to earth through me today?





“How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

ROMANS 10:15

SHARE THIS GIFT WITH OTHERS.

We have been called to proclaim Scripture so that people can learn the truth about what the Bible says and who it says God is. If you would like to join us please consider sharing a gift with us to help us continue to do make this message known to a wider audience.

AND GOD RESTED

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

GENESIS 2:1-3