

The Bible at a glance • 66 books summarized • ESV

The Bible tells one unified story: God's creation, humanity's rebellion, and God's unwavering plan to redeem a people for himself and dwell with them forever. In the beginning, God creates a world that is very good. But deceived by Satan, man rebels, bringing sin and death into creation. Even then, God promises hope: the offspring of the woman will crush Satan. God calls Abraham, promising that through his offspring all nations will be blessed. He rescues Abraham's descendants from slavery through Moses, the mediator, gives them his law, and brings them into the promised land. Under David, Israel glimpses God's kingdom, yet breaks the covenant and is sent into exile. God remains faithful, and through the prophets announces a new covenant and a coming king. The offspring, the mediator, the king... all point forward to Jesus. The New Testament proclaims that he has come. God the Son became man, lived the righteous life we never could, died for sinners, rose victorious over sin, death, and Satan, and fulfilled every promise of God. All who repent and believe in him receive forgiveness and eternal life. His Spirit now empowers his church to proclaim this good news until he returns. The story ends with a new heaven and new earth, where God dwells forever with his redeemed people. Creation, fall, redemption, restoration — one story of God's grace, every page pointing to Jesus Christ ☩.



OLD TESTAMENT

PENTATEUCH

HISTORICAL

WISDOM & POETRY

MAJOR PROPHETS

MINOR PROPHETS

Genesis God creates the world, humanity falls into sin, and God begins his redemptive plan through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.	Exodus God rescues Israel from Egyptian slavery through Moses, gives the Law at Sinai, and establishes the tabernacle.	Leviticus A holy God teaches Israel to live in His presence through sacrifice and purity: "Be holy, for I am holy."	Numbers Israel journeys from Sinai toward Canaan but rebels in unbelief; a generation dies in the wilderness before the next enters the land.	Deuteronomy Moses' farewell sermons restating the Law and calling Israel to covenant faithfulness before entering Canaan.	Joshua Under Joshua, Israel crosses the Jordan, conquers Canaan, and divides the land among the tribes — God keeps every promise.	Judges A cycle of sin, oppression, and deliverance as Israel repeatedly abandons God, who raises up judges to rescue them.	Ruth A Moabite widow's loyalty leads to redemption through Boaz, placing her in the lineage of David and Christ.	1 Samuel Israel moves from judges to kings: Samuel anoints Saul, who fails, and God chooses David, a man after his own heart.	2 Samuel David's reign — his triumphs, God's covenant promising an eternal throne, and his fall with Bathsheba.	1 Kings Solomon's glory and temple, then the kingdom splits into Israel and Judah amid growing idolatry; Elijah confronts Ahab.	2 Kings Elisha's ministry and royal failure lead to the fall of both kingdoms: Israel to Assyria, Judah to Babylon, the temple destroyed.	1 Chronicles A retelling of David's reign emphasizing temple worship and God's covenant faithfulness.
2 Chronicles Solomon through Judah's exile, focusing on the temple and the kings who sought (or abandoned) God.	Ezra Exiles return from Babylon in two waves: Zerubbabel rebuilds the temple, and Ezra teaches the Law and leads reform.	Nehemiah A Jewish cupbearer, Nehemiah returns to rebuild Jerusalem's walls in 52 days amid fierce opposition, then joins Ezra in covenant renewal.	Esther A Jewish queen in Persia courageously saves her people from genocide; God works providentially though unnamed.	Job A righteous sufferer wrestles with why the innocent suffer; God answers with his sovereignty and wisdom.	Psalms Israel's inspired hymnbook — 150 songs of praise, lament, thanksgiving, and royal hope, arranged in five books.	Proverbs Practical wisdom for everyday life, grounded in the fear of the LORD — on speech, work, money, friendship, family, and character.	Ecclesiastes Life "under the sun" is fleeting vapor; meaning is found in fearing God and keeping his commandments.	Song of Solomon A lyrical celebration of romantic love, desire, and marital delight between a bride and her beloved.	Isaiah Judgment on sin and glorious promises of the coming Messiah, the suffering servant, and a new creation.	Jeremiah The weeping prophet warns Judah of Babylonian judgment and promises a new covenant.	Lamentations Five acrostic poems grieving Jerusalem's fall, anchored by one hope: God's mercies are new every morning.	Ezekiel God's glory departing and returning; judgment on Judah, then hope of restoration and new hearts.
Daniel Faithfulness in Babylonian exile and apocalyptic visions of God's kingdom triumphing over earthly empires.	Hosea Hosea's marriage to unfaithful Gomer becomes a living picture of God's wounded, relentless love for adulterous Israel.	Joel A locust plague previews the day of the LORD — a call to repent, with the promise God will pour out his Spirit on all flesh.	Amos A shepherd from Judah thunders against Israel's injustice and hollow religion: "Let justice roll down like waters."	Obadiah The shortest Old Testament book: judgment on Edom for gloating over Jerusalem's fall, and hope the kingdom will be the LORD's.	Jonah A prophet flees God's call to Nineveh, is swallowed by a fish, then preaches — and sulks when the city repents.	Micah Judgment for injustice, hope in a ruler from Bethlehem, and the call to do justice, love kindness, walk humbly.	Nahum A century after Jonah, Nineveh's repentance has faded — Nahum announces the certain fall of the brutal Assyrian empire.	Habakkuk A prophet asks why evil goes unpunished, and why Babylon judges Judah. God answers: "The righteous shall live by faith."	Zephaniah The great day of the LORD is near — sweeping judgment on Judah and the nations, then a purified remnant rejoicing.	Haggai After the return from exile, the people stall on rebuilding the temple. Haggai's messages stir them to put God's house first.	Zechariah Visions encourage the temple builders, pointing to a humble King on a donkey, a pierced Shepherd, and the LORD reigning.	Malachi God rebukes Israel's halfhearted worship and promises a messenger preparing the LORD's way.

NEW TESTAMENT

GOSPELS

HISTORY

PAULINE EPISTLES

GENERAL EPISTLES

APOCALYPTIC

Matthew Jesus is Israel's Messiah, son of David and Abraham, the King who fulfills the Old Testament, teaches the kingdom, dies for sins, and commissions his church to disciple all nations.	Mark The fast-paced Gospel of Jesus the Servant-King: the Son of God who came "not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (10:45).	Luke A carefully researched account of Jesus the Savior of all people — with special attention to the poor, women, outsiders, prayer, and the Spirit. "The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (19:10).	John The Word made flesh: seven signs and seven "I am" sayings reveal Jesus as the divine Son, "that you may believe... and that by believing you may have life in his name" (20:31).	Acts The risen Jesus pours out the Spirit, and the gospel spreads from Jerusalem to Rome — through the witness of Peter, the martyrdom of Stephen, the conversion of Paul, and three missionary journeys.	Romans Paul's fullest exposition of the gospel: all have sinned; all are justified freely by grace through faith in Christ; nothing can separate believers from God's love; therefore live transformed lives.	1 Corinthians Paul confronts a divided, gifted, morally confused church — applying the wisdom of the cross to factions, immorality, lawsuits, marriage, worship, spiritual gifts, love, and resurrection.	2 Corinthians Paul's most personal letter: defending his ministry against critics, he reveals the paradox of gospel service — treasure in jars of clay, strength perfected in weakness.	Galatians A fiery defense of the gospel of grace: justification is by faith in Christ, not works of the law — so stand firm in freedom and walk by the Spirit.
Ephesians God's cosmic plan to unite all things in Christ: saved by grace, Jew and Gentile made one new humanity, the church equipped to walk worthy and stand in spiritual armor.	Philippians A joyful thank-you letter from prison: to live is Christ; have the humble mind of Christ; press on toward the goal; rejoice in the Lord always.	Colossians Against a philosophy diminishing Christ, Paul exalts him as supreme over creation and the church — believers are complete in him and should seek the things above.	1 Thessalonians Encouragement for a young persecuted church: Paul recalls their conversion, urges holy living and love, and comforts them about believers who have died — the Lord will return.	2 Thessalonians Correcting confusion about the day of the Lord: it has not yet come; stand firm under persecution, and don't be idle while waiting.	1 Timothy Instructions to Paul's young delegate in Ephesus: guard sound doctrine, order the church's worship and leadership, and set an example of godliness.	2 Timothy Paul's final letter, written facing death: guard the gospel, endure suffering, preach the word — "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race."	Titus Instructions for organizing churches in Crete: appoint qualified elders, teach sound doctrine, and let grace train God's people to live godly, good-works-filled lives.	Philemon A personal appeal — Paul asks Philemon to receive back his runaway slave Onesimus, now a brother in Christ, charging any debt to Paul's own account; the gospel transforming relationships.
Hebrews Jesus is better — greater than angels, Moses, and the old priesthood; his once-for-all sacrifice fulfills the entire sacrificial system. So don't drift back — hold fast, and run the race by faith.	James Wisdom for practical faith: trials, temptation, the tongue, favoritism, wealth, and prayer — because faith without works is dead.	1 Peter Hope for "elect exiles" suffering for their faith: born again to a living hope, called to holy living, honorable conduct, and joyful endurance after Christ's example.	2 Peter Peter's farewell: grow in godliness, beware false teachers, and remember — the Lord's apparent delay is patience; the day of the Lord will come.	1 John Tests of authentic life with God — walking in the light, loving one another, and believing Jesus is the Christ come in the flesh — "that you may know that you have eternal life."	2 John Walk in truth and love — and do not welcome or support teachers who deny Christ's coming in the flesh.	3 John The shortest book of the Bible: praise for Gaius's hospitality to traveling gospel workers, contrasted with domineering Diotrephes; imitate good, not evil.	Jude An urgent appeal to contend for the faith against infiltrating false teachers — ending with one of Scripture's great doxologies to him who is able to keep you from stumbling.	Revelation Jesus unveils the end of the story: letters to seven churches, cycles of judgment, Babylon's fall, Christ's victorious return, and a new heaven & earth where God dwells with his people forever.