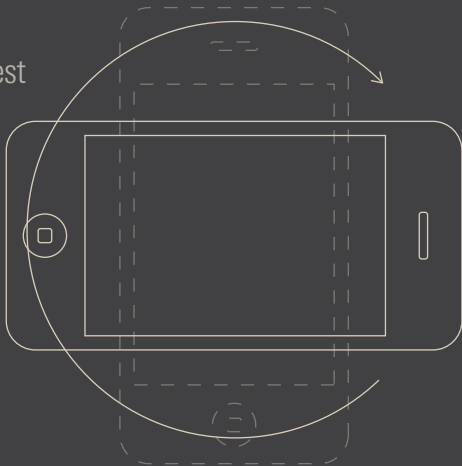




HOW THE BIBLE WORKS

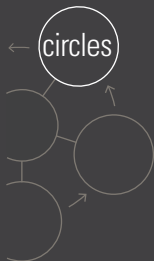
This guide best
viewed in
landscape
orientation



Written and designed by Bill Foster.



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ACTIVE LINKS

in this guide



...text in a different color

Bible verses: Rom. 9:6-8

menu icons



MENU

Select a ▶
Topic



Bible in 1
Sentence



Old & New



5 Kinds
of Books



20 Major
Events



The Fab 5



5-Step
Pattern



5 Kingdoms



The Bible in 1 Sentence

A practical description of what the Bible is.



The Bible is a supernatural, written

RECORD...

It's not hearsay or a collection of ancient mythology. It is a recorded account of historical events supported by sources outside itself. Yet, it proves its supernatural origin through specific predictions about the future—predictions which defy attempts to post-date them. ^{*(details)}



of God using ISRAEL...

Although the Bible refers to many nations other than Israel, it is written from the perspective of God's dealings with Israel—his redemptive interface for the world—and how other nations fit into his plan for Israel.



to save a

FALLEN WORLD.

Because only a man could redeem mankind, God chose one nation, Israel, through whom he would bring a Messiah who would bless the entire world. Now all believers are “Israel” and are able to commune with God personally.

Rom. 9:6-8 / Gal. 3:7-8, 28-29



The Bible is a supernatural, written

RECORD

of God using

ISRAEL

to save a

FALLEN WORLD.



*The common objection that the Bible's predictive prophecies were written after the fact doesn't hold up for a couple of reasons. Firstly, many prophecies look hundreds of years ahead in time. Over that time language style, structure, and references change noticeably. The antiquated writing by Ezekiel and Daniel for example would appear conspicuously out of place if given later dates. Secondly, some prophecies outrun the late dates suggested for them. Daniel's 4th beast/kingdom is predicted to appear far after the date many skeptics would give his prophecy.
[back to "Record..."]





Old & New

The two testaments are counterparts – the O.T.
(laws and physical things) is fulfilled by the N.T.
(ideals and spiritual realities).



OLD TESTAMENT

LAWS FOR
FALLEN
PEOPLE

Ex. 20 / Deut. 5

NEW TESTAMENT

IDEALS FOR
REDEEMED
PEOPLE

Mat. 5



OLD TESTAMENT

A LIFE **COMPELLED** BY
LAWS

Gal. 4:21-26



NEW TESTAMENT

A LIFE **INSPIRED** BY
GRACE

Eph. 2:10



OLD TESTAMENT

WRITTEN IN
HEBREW

ALLOWING IT TO BE
PRESERVED
BY THE NATION
PRODUCING THE MESSIAH



NEW TESTAMENT

WRITTEN IN
GREEK

ALLOWING IT TO BE
SHARED
WITH THE WORLD
ABOUT THE MESSIAH



OLD TESTAMENT

THE MESSIAH'S
PHYSICAL
ANCESTORS

Gen. 15:3-5



NEW TESTAMENT

THE MESSIAH'S
SPIRITUAL
OFFSPRING

Isa. 53:10 / Gal. 3:6-8



OLD TESTAMENT

CIRCUMCISED
BODY

SHOWS DEVOTION TO GOD

Gen. 17:9-11



NEW TESTAMENT

CIRCUMCISED
HEART

ENABLES DEVOTION TO GOD

Deut. 30:6 / Rom. 2:28-29



OLD TESTAMENT

THE LAW WRITTEN ON
STONE

Ex. 24:12



NEW TESTAMENT

THE LAW WRITTEN ON
HEARTS

Jer. 31:31-33



OLD TESTAMENT

CONQUER A FRUITFUL
LAND

Num. 13:23-24



NEW TESTAMENT

PRODUCE A FRUITFUL
LIFE

Gal. 5:16-17, 22



OLD TESTAMENT

SAVED BY
FAITH

Gen. 15:6 / Rom. 4:11 / Heb. 10:4



NEW TESTAMENT

SAVED BY
FAITH

Gal. 3:8-9 / Eph. 2:8-9



OLD TESTAMENT

COVERS
≈ **3,600**
YEARS



NEW TESTAMENT

COVERS
< **100**
YEARS



OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis
Exodus
Joshua
Judges
Ruth
1&2 Samuel
Ezra
Nehemiah

READING ORDER*

Follow this order
to read the Bible
as a chronological
account without
getting bogged
down, then fill in
the other books.

*recommended
by R.C. Sproul

NEW TESTAMENT

Luke
Acts
Ephesians
1 Corinthians
1 Peter
1 Timothy
Hebrews
Romans



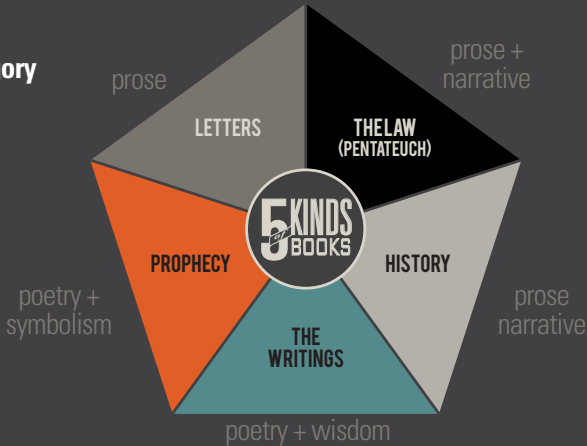


5 Kinds of Books

The Bible is grouped according to kinds of writing.
Knowing what kind you are reading can greatly affect
your understanding of Scripture.



Select
a category



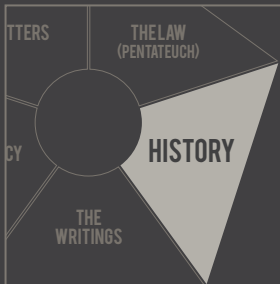


Location: The Old Testament books from Genesis to Deuteronomy.

Purpose: To record the foundations of humanity (creation, marriage, sin, languages, etc.) and to trace the origin of the nation of Israel from Abraham to Joshua.

Style: Ordinary language (prose) with narrative accounts of major figures.





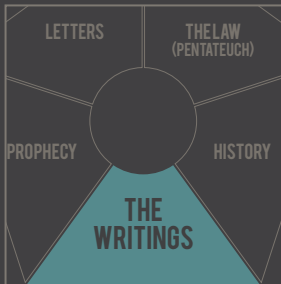
Location: The Old Testament books from Joshua to Esther.

(Plus the Gospels and Acts in the N.T.)

Purpose: To record the Messiah's physical lineage and the obedience-disobedience **cycle** of Israel's relationship with God as a lesson against our own reluctance toward God's will.

Style: Prose narrative



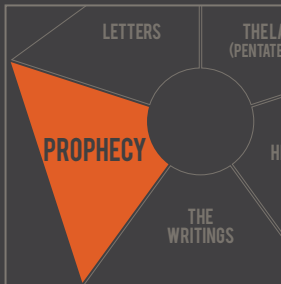


Location: The Old Testament books from Job to Song of Songs plus Lamentations.

Purpose: To offer guidance, assurance, and warning on a range of human experiences including relationships, prosperity, pleasure, praise, and suffering.

Style: Poetic



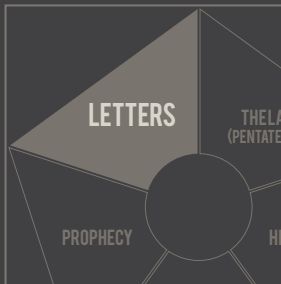


Location: The Old Testament books from Isaiah to Malachi.
(Plus chapters 4-22 of Revelation.)

Purpose: To foretell God's judgment on Israel via takeover by **enemy nations** and its restoration after years of exile. Also, to foretell the coming Messiah and the restoration of our fallen world.

Style: Poetic and symbolic





Location: The New Testament books from Romans to Revelation 1-3.

Purpose: To instruct and encourage Christ-like living for the early Christians and for us. Also, to explain doctrines relating to sin, salvation, and the dual nature of Christ.

Style: Prose except for chapters 4-22 of Revelation (apocalyptic).





20 Major Events

These most pivotal events and eras will help you see the big picture of Biblical history in icon form.



Select
a row





CREATION

Gen. 1 & 2

THE FALL

Gen. 3

*Rom.
5:12-21*

THE FLOOD

Gen. 6

*Mat.
24:37-38*

TOWER OF BABEL

Gen. 11

COVENANT w/ABRAHAM

Gen. 15 & 17





THE EXODUS

Ex. 12-14

10 CMND- MNTS.

Ex. 20

Deut. 5

THE JUDGES

Jdg. & Ruth

*[Godless living
(Judges) and
godly living
(Ruth) during
the same
period in
history]*

DAVID

1 & 2 Sam.

Psalms

DIVIDED NATION

1Kings 11-12





PROPHECIES

Isa. - Mal.

JERUSALEM DESTROYED

*2Kings
25:1-12*

*Jer. 6, 21,
25, 27, 34*

Ezek. 4-5

RESTORATION

Jer. 30

Zeph. 3

Hos. 14

*Occurs between the O.T.
and N.T. but prophecied
far in advance*

THE GREEKS

*Ezek.
26:12-14*

Dan. 2,7,8

THE ROMANS

Dan. 2,7

Rev. 17:9-14





JESUS' WORK

Mat.

Mark

Luke

John

HOLY SPIRIT (PENTACOST)

Acts 2

SPIRIT SENDS OUT BELIEVERS

Acts - Rev.

JESUS RETURNS

Zech. 14

Acts 1

Rev. 21-22

*...many
others*

NEW HEAVEN & NEW EARTH

Isa. 65

Rev. 21-22

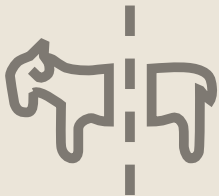




The Fab 5

God works out his redemptive plan through selected people via covenants. His covenants involving the following 5 people direct the events recorded in Scripture.





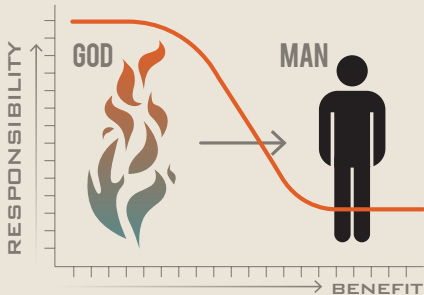
UNDERSTAND A COVENANT

In the O.T., cutting an animal in half and walking between it sealed a covenant. The meaning was, *"may this happen to me if I don't uphold my side."*

In **Gen. 15:12-17** only God passes through the halves, not Abraham. This showed that responsibility for ultimate fulfillment of the covenant was on Him. Abraham was merely to trust that God would fulfill it.



GOD'S COVENANT = A ONE-SIDED GRANT



The lesser party (man) receives **more benefit** and **less responsibility** than the greater party (God).

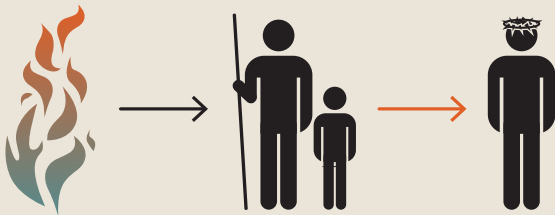


Select an individual



GOD'S COVENANT W/ABRAHAM

Gen. 15 / 17



Covenant: trusting God --> chosen people, promised land

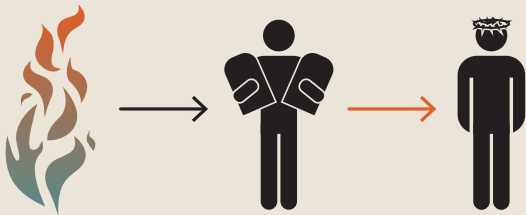
Sign: circumcision **Fulfillment:** Jesus

Col. 2:1-12 / Rom. 2:28-29



GOD'S COVENANT W/MOSES

Ex. 24: 1-8



Covenant: obedience to laws --> protection, abundance

Sign: animal sacrifices **Fulfillment:** Jesus

Heb. 10:1-2 / 7:27



GOD'S COVENANT W/DAVID

1Kings 9:4-9 / 2Sam. 7:12-17



Covenant: righteous king --> rest/peace in Promised Land

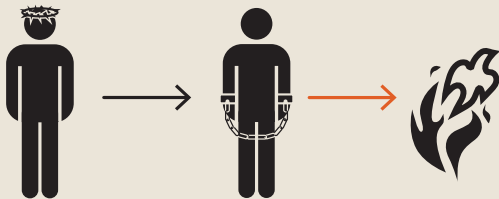
Sign: Davidic heir on Israel's throne **Fulfillment:** Jesus

Ezek. 37: 23-24 / Jer. 23:5-6



JESUS' COMMISSION TO PAUL

Acts 9:1-6

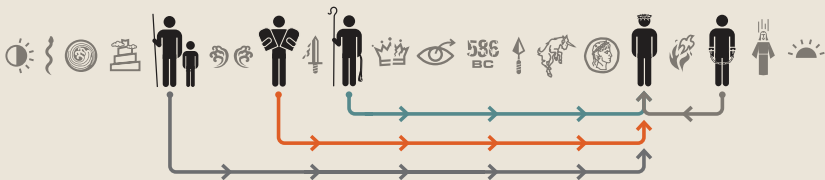


Commission: messenger to Gentiles and Israel

Sign: blindness then sight + baptism **Fulfillment:** Holy Spirit

Acts 9:17 / 1:8





Abraham: foreshadows changed heart

Moses: foreshadows eternal protection and abundance

David: foreshadows rest and peace

Paul: proclaims the good news (fulfillment of the above 3)

Jesus: provides all of the above

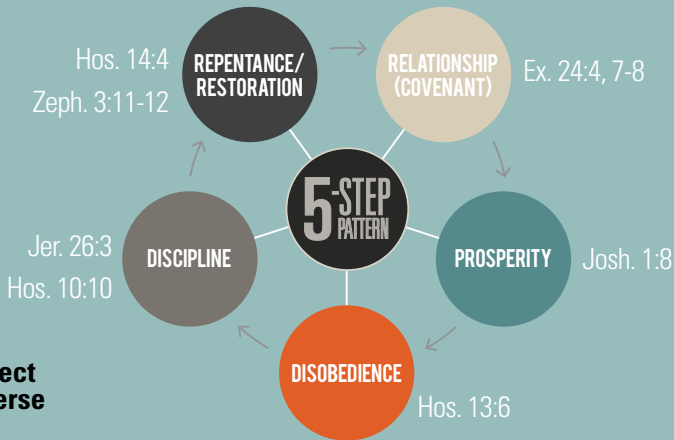




5-Step Pattern

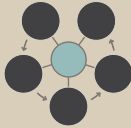
Look for this pattern in Israel's behavior and use it as a lesson for your walk with God.





**Select
a verse**





5 Kingdoms

Do O.T. prophecies confuse you? Most of them predict God using 5 kingdoms to judge Israel. Each inherits control over Israel, then is itself judged by the kingdom that follows it.



Select a
kingdom

ROME
(63 B.C.)



ASSYRIA
(721 B.C.)



SPLIT OF
ALEX.'S
EMPIRE

(612 B.C.)

GREECE
(330 B.C.)



BABYLONIA
(586 B.C.)



(331 B.C.)

(586 B.C.)

CONTROL OF ISRAEL
DEFEAT OF PREV. KINGDOM



PERSIA
(538 B.C.)



1





ASSYRIA

Arrogant and savagely cruel

- 2Kings 17-18 - deports Northern kingdom of Israel
- Takeover of Northern kingdom prophesied by **Isaiah**, **Hosea**, **Amos**, **Micah**
- Destruction of Assyria by Babylonians & Medes warned by **Jonah** and foretold/depicted by **Nahum**





BABYLONIA

Tolerant of Israelites who submitted

- 2Kings 25 & Jer. 39 - deports Southern kingdom (Judah) & destroys Jerusalem
- Destruction of Jerusalem spoken of by Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel
- Details of Nebuchadnezzar's reign recorded in Daniel





PERSIA

Allowed Israelites to return to their land

- **Dan. 5** - Medo-Persia conquers Babylon
- Isaiah prophesies King Cyrus 100+ years before he was born (**44:28, 45:1**)
- **Dan. 2 & 7** - Rise of Persians (Medo-Persia) foretold; **Dan. 8** - (the ram) defeated by Greece
- Details of Jewish life in Persia recorded in **Esther**





GREECE

*Alexander the Great conquers the Persians;
Greek becomes the language of the N.T.*

- **Dan. 7** - Alex.'s campaign pictured as a 4-winged, 4-headed leopard (4 generals; speed)
- **Dan. 8** - (one-horned goat) defeats Persia (the ram)
- **Ezek. 26:1-5, 12** - Alex. throws rubble of mainland Tyre into the sea to reach and conquer island Tyre (predicted 250 yrs. prior)





ROME

Rome assumes control of Israel after Jews revolt against Seleucid (Greek) rule

- **Dan. 2** - the statue's feet of iron & clay
- **Dan. 7** - the 4th beast with iron teeth and 10 horns
- **Rev. 17:9-14** - 7 hills & 7 kings of Rome

