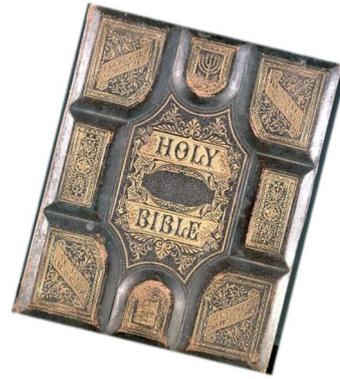


Study No.1 The Bible Itself



Timeframe of events:

Written c.1400 B.C. to c.68 A.D.

Summary: The Bible is a collection of writings, written over a period of about 1500 years. Based around events taking place from c.4000 B.C. to c.68 A.D., and more to come, foretold for the future. There are historical sections telling the "story", and then other documents, such as poetry, songs, letters, genealogical lists and prophetic utterances.

It is strongly recommended that you become familiar with the storyline in the historical sections first, and then the other writings will make more sense. This is because they were written at various stages during the history, and they reflect the circumstances of what was happening at the time they were written.

Main Reading / Listening

Read and/or listen to the following passages at least once. Twice is better for taking it all in!



As a minimum, please read or listen to:

Psalm 119:105-112.

To read the Bible systematically, please read or listen to:

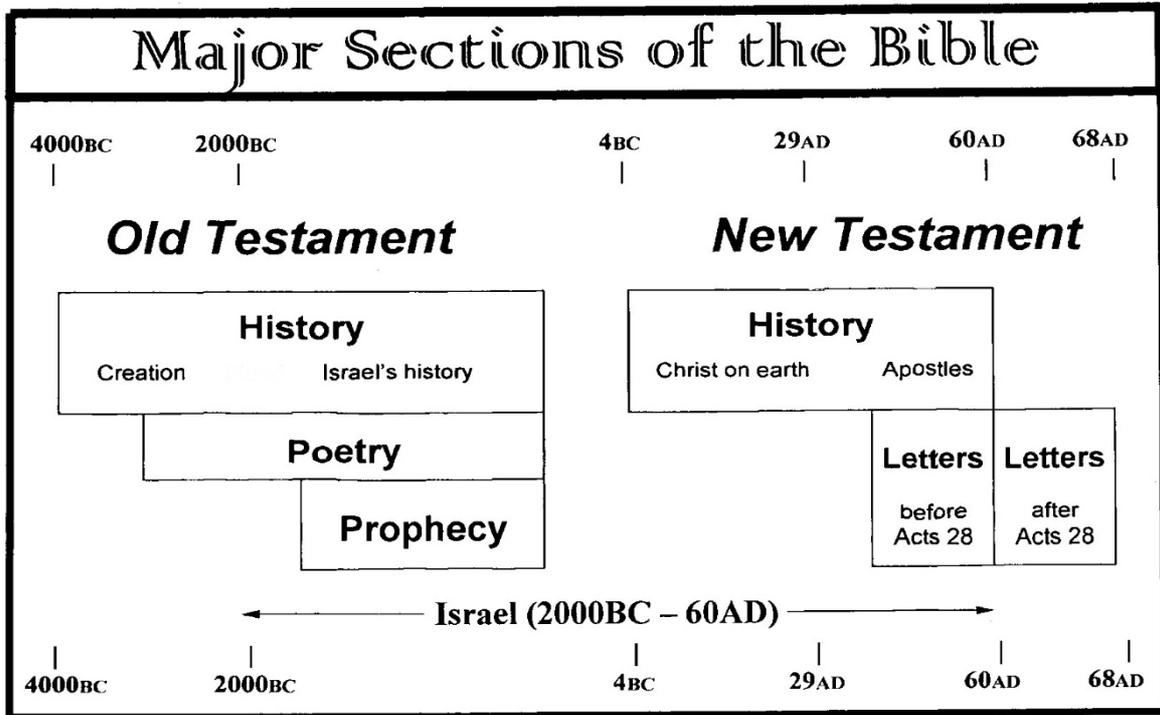
Psalm 12:6

2 Timothy 3:14-17

2 Peter 1:21

Psalm 119 (a very long Psalm, equivalent to 7 or 8 normal length chapters)

Relevant Charts:

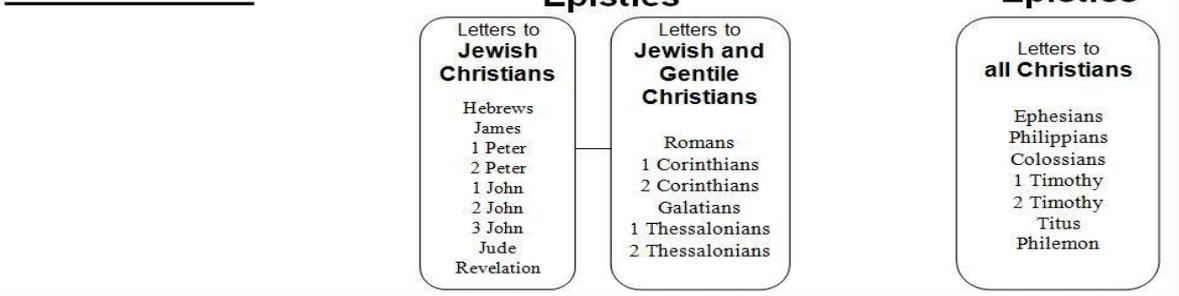


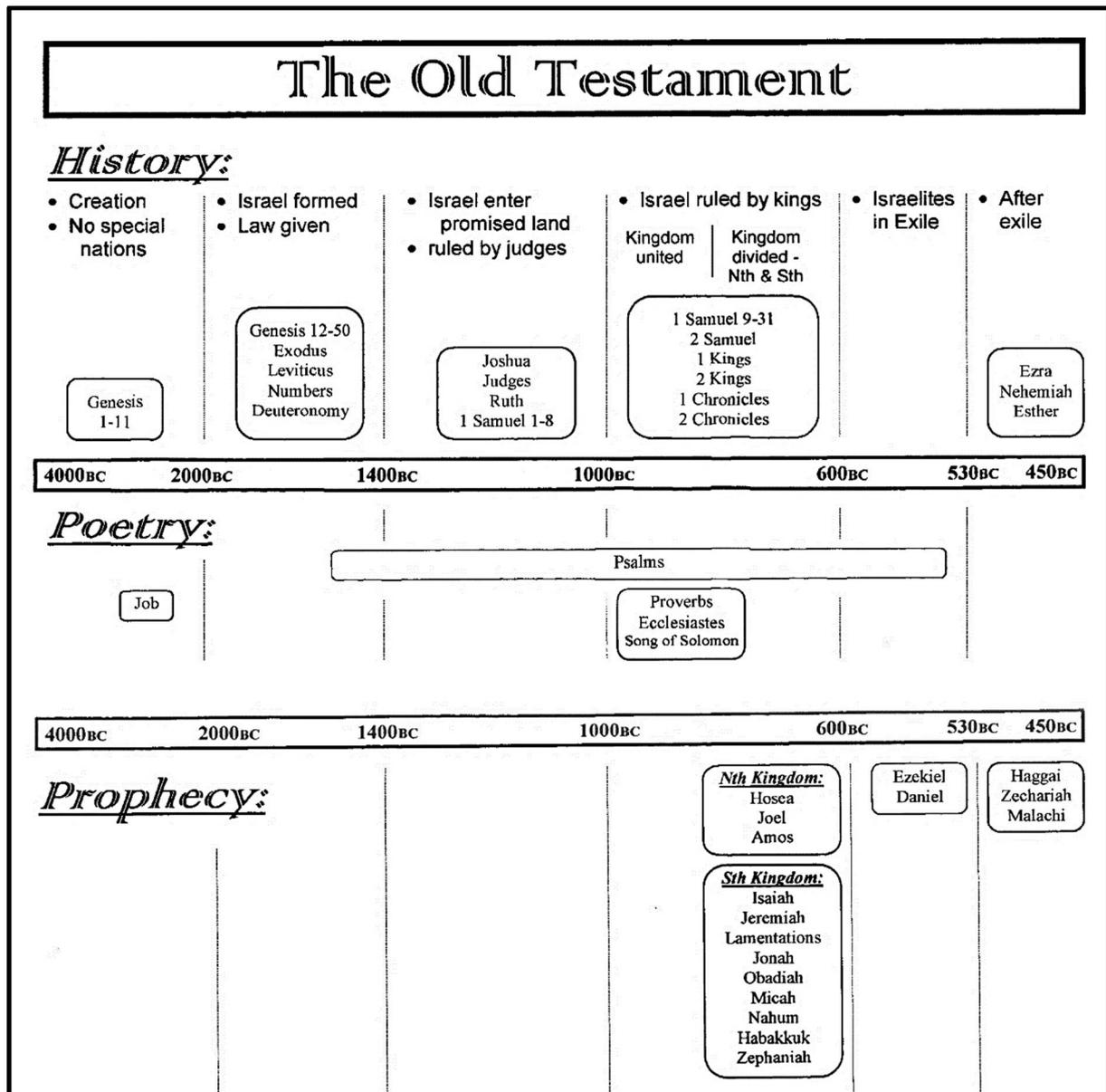
The New Testament

Events:



Letters:





For further study:

Attempt one or more of the following tasks to enhance your understanding and appreciation of the main subjects covered in the main readings.



- Jot down any questions arising from this study's readings. Ask someone else for help, or conduct your own research to try and answer these questions.

- Note any passages, verses, themes or lessons that have stood out to you from this study's readings. Write down or verbalise your reasons.

- Read these other related Bible passages:

Creation: John 1:1-3

The sin of mankind, Christ's part in redemption: Romans 5:12-15

Israel's history up until Jews' return from exile: Nehemiah 9:7-38;

Acts 7:2-53

Israel's rejection of Christ: Acts 3:13-21

The setting aside of Israel: Acts 28:23-29

The dealings with Jews and Gentiles equally: Ephesians 3:2-7

- Read these brief articles, easy-to-read booklets, etc.:

The "Preface" to your Bible, if it has one.

"The Book We Trust" (B. Sherring) Contains brief summaries of the contents of each book of the Bible. Easy to read. 31pp, PDF.

"Reading the Bible Yourself" (D. Tavender) This booklet emphasises the importance of observing of context, right division and dispensations. Exercises with suggested answers are included for the reader to try this approach to the Bible firsthand. 40pp PDF.

"The Case for the New Testament - Is the New Testament Really Inspired Scripture?" (Campus Ministry International article)

- Refer to these books:

"Thumbnail Sketch of Scripture" (P.Ward) Leader's book and student's workbook with notes and exercises on each book of the Bible. 200+ pp. PDF

"The Bible - Myth or Message?" (M.Penny) Subtitled "Amazing facts about the book Christians call God's Word". Subjects include: What is the Bible? Where did it come from? Is it fact or fiction? Is it reliable? Is it inspired? Is it a message from man or from God?, and more. 132pp E-book or paperback

"The Volume of the Book" (C.H.Welch) This book deals with the manner in which the Bible has come down to us in the form of the various versions and manuscripts. Included are sections on the Apocrypha, and several photographs of ancient manuscripts. 307pp PDF

- Listen to these audio messages:

S069 - Profit of Scripture (Ernest Streets)

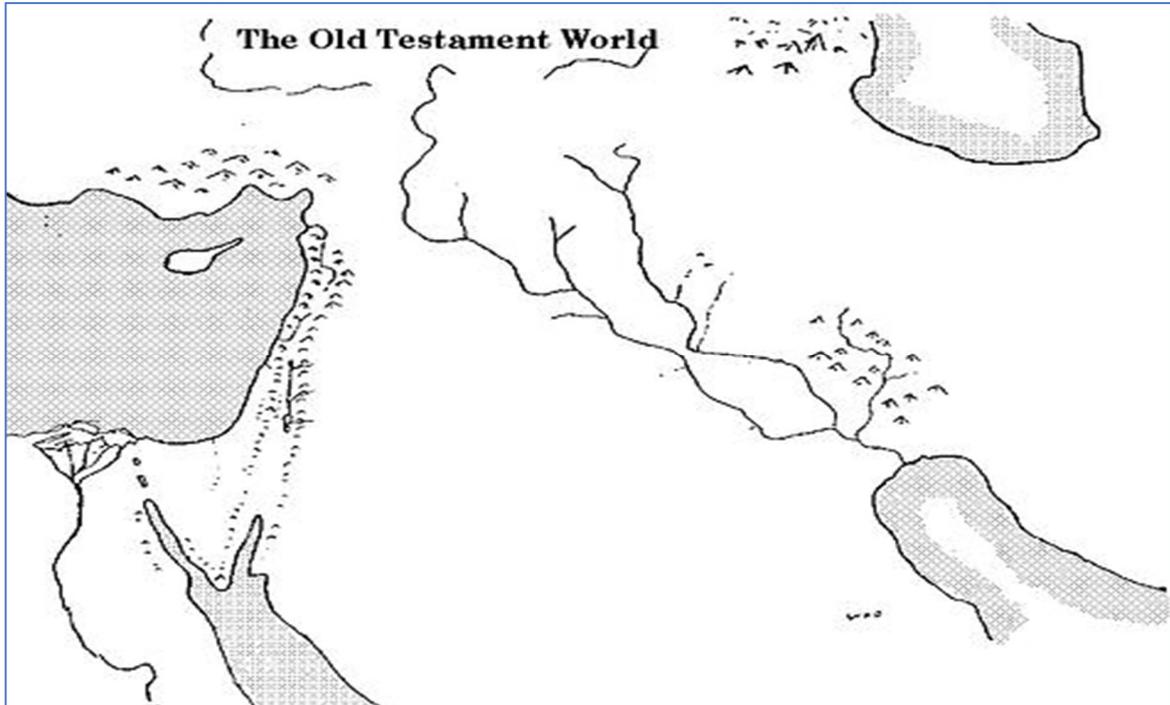
S070 - Arrangement of Old Testament (Ernest Streets)

S071 - All Scripture (Ernest Streets)

E91 - The Inspiration of Scripture (Brian Sherring)

- Locate the places on the maps on the next page.

- Use your Bible's maps or an internet search to help you identify the approximate locations of the following places on the map below: Israel at the time of King David, present-day Israel, Canaan, Egypt, Syria, Babylon, Assyria.



- Use your Bible's maps or an internet search to help you identify the approximate locations of the following places on the map below: Palestine at the time of Christ, present-day Jordan, present-day Egypt, Rome, Asia Minor, Greece.



**Consider and discuss
the following questions:**



- 1) What does the word "Bible" mean?
- 2) What are some other terms for the Bible?
- 3) Who wrote the Bible, and how long did it take?
- 4) How many books are in each of the Old and New Testaments?
- 5) How many chapters are there in each of the Old and New Testaments?
- 6) How many verses are there in each of the Old and New Testaments (this will vary slightly from one translation to another)?
- 7) When did the "Bible" as we know it come into existence?
- 8) What does the term "canon" mean in a Biblical context?
- 9) What is the difference between the Protestant Bible and the Catholic Bible?
- 10) Should some Bible books be excluded? Are there others that should be included? If so, which ones, and why?
- 11) What does "Testament" mean, in a Biblical context?
- 12) Is the New Testament more important than the Old today?
- 13) What books are often referred to as the "Hebrew Scriptures"?
- 14) What is a "translation"?
- 15) What is a "paraphrase"?
- 16) What version(s) of the Bible do you read? Is it a translation, a paraphrase, or something different?

- 17) How can we be sure that the Old Testament is God-inspired?
- 18) How can we be sure that the New Testament is God-inspired?
- 19) How did people inspired by God actually write the Bible text?
- 20) In what languages were the Bible books originally written?
- 21) For centuries, most common people did not own a Bible for themselves. How would they be able to read it, study it or learn it?
- 22) What are some ways we might (a) read the Bible; (b) study the Bible; and (c) learn its contents?
- 23) What do you think is the best way for you to (a) read the Bible; (b) study the Bible; and (c) learn its contents?