

**A**

**Chronological**

**Overview**

**of the**

**Bible**

## **Introduction**

Though the Bible is a library of 66 books written by 40 different authors over a period of 1600 years, it really encompasses all events that preceded mankind and end sometime in the future. It is a library filled with the beginning and end of everything that relates to this earth and spiritual life

The arrangement of the books of the Bible in our English versions is not based of their chronological sequence. Because that is not understood by most Christians, there is confusion in reading, for instance, the books of 1 and 2 Chronicles and 1 and 2 Kings, which are very similar.

The OT was written in Hebrew, primarily. In the book of Daniel there are portions written in Aramaic. Hebrew was the language of the Israelites. Aramaic was the language of some of the surrounding areas. It is also know as Chaldean.

### **The Hebrew Arrangement of the Old Testament**

#### The Law (Torah)

Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy

#### The Prophets

##### *The Former Prophets*

Joshua, Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings

##### *The Latter Prophets*

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, The Twelve

#### The Writings

##### *Poetic*

Job, Psalms, Proverbs

##### *Rolls*

Song of Solomon, Ruth, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Lamentation

##### *Histories*

Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, Chronicles

## The “Alexandrian” or Greek Arrangement of the Old Testament

### The Historical Books

*The Law of Moses*

*The Histories*

### The Poetic Books

### The Prophetic Books

*The Major Prophets*

*The Minor Prophets*

## The Chronological View of the Bible

### I. The Beginning Genesis 1 - 11

Creation to 2000BC.

It covers the span of time from the beginning of the planetary heavens, our earth, the elements, vegetation, animals and humans to about 2000 BC.

#### Four Events

Creation	1 – 2
The Fall	3 – 5 (Fall, results, murder and death)
The Flood	6 – 9 (Cause, ark, flood, result)
The Tower	10 – 11 (Babel)

### II. The Patriarchs Genesis 12 – 50; Job

2000 to 1800 BC.

Abraham	12 – 25
Isaac	26
Jacob	27 – 36
Joseph	37 – 50

(The focus in these chapters is God's dealing with these patriarchs and the covenant He made with His them and their descendants.)

Job                      Theme: *Why do the righteous suffer?*

### III. The Time of the Exodus

1800 – 1400BC

Exodus: The path of deliverance  
Leviticus: The guide to worship  
Numbers : The cost of disobedience  
Deuteronomy: The focus of the Law

### IV. The Time of Conquest Joshua

1400 – 1390 BC

The book of Joshua

## V. The Time of Judges

1390 – 1050 BC.

Judges: Book of Apostacy

Ruth: Book of Redemption

1 Samuel 1- 7: Story of Samuel, the last “judge” and first prophet.

## VI. The Time of Kingdoms

1050 to 586 BC

### A United Kingdom 1050 – 931 BC

1 Samuel 8 – 31: Saul, the first king of Israel.

2 Samuel: David, a man after God’s own heart

The majority of the Psalms written during this time.

1 Kings 1 – 11: Solomon, a man driven for earthly gain

Ecclesiastes, Proverbs, Song of Solomon

### A Divided Kingdom 931 – 722 BC

1 Kings 12 – 15: A Time of Antagonism (no writing prophets)

1 Kings 16 – 2 Kings 8. A Time of Alliance (no writing prophets)

(Elijah and Elisha’s ministries are recorded in this section.)

2 Kings 9 – 17: A Time of Renewed Antagonism

Most of the writing prophets of the OT served during this time.

*Obadiah*: The destruction of Edom 845BC?

*Joel*: The Day of the Lord (2 Kings 12 – 14) 837 – 817BC

*Jonah*: God concern and Israels unconcern for the heathen

(2 Kings 14) 775 – 750BC

*Amos*: The righteousness of God. (2 Kings 14) 767 – 753BC

*Hosea* The spiritual adultery of Israel and God’s love for her.

(2 Kings 14) 755 – 725BC

*Isaiah*: Salvation is of the Lord (2 Kings 15 – 17) 740 – 690BC

*Micah*: The approaching judgment (2 Kings 15 – 17) 740 – 695BC

## A Surviving Kingdom 722 – 586 BC

2 Kings 18 – 25

*Nahum*: Judgment on Nineveh 715 – 701

*Zephaniah*: The Day of the Lord 640 – 609BC

*Habakkuk*: From doubt to faith 609 – 606BC

*Jeremiah*: Warning and Judgment 626 – 586

## **VII. The Time of Exile**

586 – 536BC

*Daniel*: The sovereignty of God over the nations 603 – 535BC

*Ezekiel* The destruction and final restoration of Jerusalem 692 – 570BC

*Lamentations* The destruction of Jerusalem 586 – 570BC

## **VIII. The Time of Restoration**

536 – 400BC

After 70 years of captivity, the people who had populated the Southern Kingdom and their children returned to Jerusalem after their captivity in Babylon.

*Ezra* 526 – 422BC

*Haggai* Complete the reconstruction of the temple 520BC

*Zechariah* The final restoration through Messiah 520 – 518BC

*Esther* God's providential care of the Jews 484 – 473BC

*Nehemiah* Rebuild the wall of Jerusalem 445 – 422BC

*Malachi* The love of God for Israel 432 – 424BC

## **The Interlude**

*From 400 BC to 70 AD there were 6 major forces affecting Judah. The most important aspect of this time is that God did not send any prophets and theologians speak of this as the silence of God until the coming of Messiah.*

- *Persia* 536 – 331BC
- *Greece* 331 – 323
- *Egypt* 323 – 331BC
- *Syria* 536 – 198
- *Macabees* 168 – 63AD
- *Rome* 63 – 70AD

## IX. The Time of the Gospels

4 BC – 30 AD

There are 4 writers of the Gospels that begin the NT.

*Matthew* Christ is the King of the Jews 50AD

*Luke* Jesus as the perfect Human 57AD

*Mark* Jesus was a servant to all humankind 65AD

*John* Christ is the Son of God 90AD

## X. The Time of the Apostles

30 – 95 AD

The book of Acts

Acts 13 – 14 The 1<sup>st</sup> missionary journey

- *Galatians* Sanctification by faith 48- 49AD

Acts 16 – 18 The 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey

- *1 Thessalonians* The coming of the Lord 51AD
- *2 Thessalonians* The Day of the Lord 52AD

Acts 18 – 21 The 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey

- *1 Corinthians* Correction of Church Problems 55AD
- *2 Corinthians* Comfort and Grace in Ministry 57AD
- *Romans* Justification by faith 58AD

Acts 21 – 28 The 1<sup>st</sup> imprisonment

- *Philemon* The return of Onesimus 60AD
- *Colossians* The pre-eminence of Christ 60AD
- *Ephesians* The Church universal 61AD
- *Philippians* the believer's joy in Christ 62AD

The 4<sup>th</sup> missionary journey

- *1 Timothy* Church order 64AD
- *Titus* Church order 65AD

The 2<sup>nd</sup> imprisonment

- *2 Timothy* Sound doctrine in the face of apostasy 67AD

## **XI. The Time of General Epistles**

*James* Practical faith 46AD

*1 Peter* Hope in the face of suffering 65AD

*2 Peter* Exhortation to grow spiritually 66AD

*Hebrews* The superiority of the person and work of Jesus Christ 68AD

*Jude* Stand strong for the Christian faith 80AD

*1 John* Fellowship with God through Jesus Christ 90AD

*2 John* Avoid people who do not teach the truth of God 90AD

*3 John* The need to accept true teachers of the Gospel 90AD

## **XII. The Time of Future Events**

Revelation